Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-126
Monday
3 July 1989

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-126 *3 July 1989*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

GRANMA Editorial on 'Exemplary' Case *[Havana TV]* 1
Castro Reportedly Cancels Trip to Argentina *[Madrid EFE]* 2
Final Day of Ochoa Military Honor Tribunal *[Havana Radio, TV]* 3
Ochoa Dishonorably Discharged From FAR *[Havana Radio]* 30
Military Tribunal Begins Hearing Ochoa Case *[Havana Radio]* 30
Cienfuegos Reportedly Seeking Asylum in Embassy *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 31
REUTER Reporter Expelled for 'False News' *[AFP]* 32
Moscow Spokesman Cited on Angolan Situation *[Havana Radio]* 32

Jamaica

Security Minister Denies DEA Agent Kidnapped *[CANA]* 32

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Arias Agrees To Hold Summit in Honduras 6-8 Aug *[ACAN]* 33

El Salvador

Supreme Court President Attacked, Guard Killed *[ACAN]* 33
International Relations Institute Head Killed 33
Chacon Killed 30 Jun *[San Salvador Radio]* 33
Wife Blames FMLN, CIA *[San Salvador Radio]* 33
Cristiani Blames FMLN *[San Salvador TV]* 34
FMLN Blames 'Cristiani Faction' *[San Salvador Radio]* 34
Cristiani on FMLN Actions, Dialogue Commission *[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 30 Jun]* 34
FMLN Communique Rejects Dialogue Commission *[Radio Farbundo Marti]* 35
FMLN Says U.S. Aid Diverted to 'Dirty War' *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 36
Alleged Leader Discloses Rifts Within FMLN *[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 29 Jun]* 37
Reportage on Clashes Between Army, FMLN 37
FMLN Helicopter Damaged *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 37
9 Rebels Killed in Morazan *[San Salvador TV]* 37
FMLN Airs 'War Bulletin' *[Radio Farbundo Marti]* 37
FMLN Radio on June Casualties *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 38

Honduras

Nicaraguan Army Lieutenant Requests Asylum *[ACAN]* 38

Nicaragua

Government Extends Cease-Fire to 31 July *[BARRICADA 30 Jun]* 39
Ortega Denounces CIA 'Meddling' in Elections *[Managua TV]* 39
On U.S. Financing for Parties *[Managua Radio]* 39
Parties Warned Against Accepting 'Covert Aid' *[Managua Radio]* 39

Opposition Spokesman Condemns 'U.S. Meddling' *[Managua Radio]* 40
Interior Ministry Denies Links With Defector *[BARRICADA 29 Jun]* 40
Defense Ministry on Desertion of Lieutenant *[ACAN]* 40
Newscast Sanctioned for 'Slanderous' Broadcast *[ACAN]* 41
Ortega Dedicates Retreat to 'Mothers of Heroes' *[Managua Radio]* 41
Gives Homes to Mothers *[Managua Radio]* 41
Indigenous Opposition Leaders Willing To Return *[AFP]* 42
Cuban Ambassador Reportedly Departs 'Quietly' *[LA PRENSA 28 Jun]* 42

Panama

U.S. Army Troops Reportedly 'Raid' Gamboa *[Panama City TV]* 42
Delgado: U.S. Plans To Maintain Presence *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 30 Jun]* 43
Solis Palma Says Noriega 'Irreplaceable' *[Panama City TV]* 43
OAS Letter Says Mission Willing To Return *[Panama City TV]* 43
ADOC Regrets OAS Decision *[Panama City TV]* 44
PRD Calls for Dialogue With Opposition *[CRITICA 30 Jun]* 44
State Security Agents Raid PDC Headquarters *[ACAN]* 45
5 PDC Members Imprisoned *[AFP]* 45
Media Director Announces Closure of Newscasts *[Panama City TV]* 45
PDC Airs TV Ad Showing Election Results *[Panama City TV]* 46
Government Bans Opposition Television Ad *[ACAN]* 46
Paper Reports Car Crash Kills U.S. Soldiers *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 2 Jul]* 47
New Canal Administrator Presents Credentials *[Panama City TV]* 47
Opposition Criticizes Selection *[ACAN]* 48
ADOC on 'Irresponsible' Choice *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 1 Jul]* 48

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Alfonsin's Resignation Letter Sent to Congress *[TELAM]* 49
Menem Discusses Wage Hike, Labor Issues *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 1 Jul]* 49
Menem Clarifies Role of Sach as Economic Adviser *[DYN]* 50
Executive Proposes Armed Forces Modernization *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 50
Army Denies Alleged Agreement With Seineldin *[TELAM]* 51
Violent Looting Occurs in Rosario Market *[DYN]* 51

Bolivia

Interior Minister Identifies Mormon Killers *[La Paz Radio]* 52
Police Disturbed by Disclosures *[La Paz Radio]* 52
Extremists Threaten Perez Beltran *[Madrid EFE]* 52
COB Criticizes Arrest of University Students *[Madrid EFE]* 52
Government: Some Areas Controlled by Traffickers *[Madrid EFE]* 53
UMOPAR Injures Peasant Leader in Clashes *[La Paz Radio]* 53

Brazil

Minimum Foreign Reserves Reportedly $6 Billion *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 29 Jun]* 53
Economic Growth Slows in Past 12 Months *[O GLOBO 30 Jun]* 54

Chile

Communist Teitelboim Denies Pact With Aylwin *[Santiago Radio]* 54
34 Detained in March Supporting Human Rights *[Santiago Radio]* 54
Socialist Party Holds Congress, Discusses Goals *[Santiago Radio]* 54
Progressive Social Democratic Party Loses Status *[Santiago TV]* 55
Radical Socialist Party President Resigns *[Santiago TV]* 55

Colombia

Rebel Groups Seek Dialogue With Government *[Madrid EFE]* 55
More Rebel Groups Join Talks *[AFP]* 56
5 Marines Killed in EPL Ambush 29 June *[Bogota TV]* 56

Paraguay

PLRA Deputy Forecasts Coup on 7, 8 July *[HOY 2 Jul]* 57
PLRA Deputy Doubts Rumors *[HOY 2 Jul]* 57
Alleged Movements Creates Incident *[ABC COLOR 30 Jun]* 57
Police Reaffirm Ban an Demonstrations in Asuncion *[PATRIA 1 Jul]* 58
Organizer Suspends Scheduled 'March for Land' *[EL DIARIO 1 Jul]* 58

Cuba

GRANMA Editorial on 'Exemplary' Case

FL0307125489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] With the title "Not Even a Single Stone of Cuba's Moral and Honor Trenches Can Be Left Without Repair," GRANMA today [3 July] carries an editorial on the first page referring to the expeditious trial [of Ochoa]. Now we will read the text of the editorial:

In an exemplary manner without parallel in history, our revolution vents the embarrassing episode committed by the group of irresponsibles who, motivated by vulgar desires for profit and the sweet life, associated themselves with crazy, conceited, and unrealistic projects and involved our country in drug trafficking. No rumor or shame has stopped us from exposing the truth to public view. With astonishment, the world watches this extraordinary proof of political and moral bravery. The world is not used to this. Only a true, strong, firm, and profound revolution is capable of doing this. In many of the world's countries, abuse of power, embezzling, corruption, and personal profit in the upper levels of government is as common as our daily bread. These societies are used to this and they do not even react to it. This happened in our country for almost 60 years during the mediatized and neocolonial republic. However, this all ended on 1 January 1959. The revolution solved this in a firm and irreversible manner; impunity had come to an end.

It would be very difficult to find a country in the world in which a vice president in office would be taken to jail for severe crimes of corruption and then be deeply investigated for misuse of state funds; in which noted members of the Central Committee and National Assembly were legally processed; in which a man such as Arnaldo Ochoa, with outstanding merits—Division General and Hero of the Republic of Cuba—was submitted to honor and judicial tribunals once it had been proved that his crimes were grave—even though they had not yet been proved to be as grave, as they later turned out to be when his involvement in drug trafficking was proved. Or in which a group of relatively high-ranking officers of the Ministry of the Interior were submitted, along with Ochoa, to a swift trial for this crime. It is also difficult to find a country that would acknowledge to national and international public opinion the shame over the fact that these operations, which have been described in detail down to the last hair, were being carried out for the last 2 and ½ years.

Much moral valor, as well political wholeness and integrity, is needed to do this. A very solid, brave, pure, and revolutionary party is capable of doing this. The imperialist enemy is confused. Its main internal problem, at present, is drug abuse. Like a cancer, drug abuse corrupts its consumerist society and every year it generates hundreds of thousands of millions of dollars to nourish international drug trafficking. Now the enemy does not know whether to benefit from the battle Cuba is waging against the same phenomenon, due to strict ethical reasons and revolutionary principles, or to give into the temptation to use this episode to make infamous campaigns against our revolution.

To all appearances, they vacillate. However, some of their various press organizations are already interpreting the events in a grossly intriguing and slanderous manner. Their press talks about power struggles and about people who are being sacrificed as scapegoats to cover up things others are responsible for, that Ochoa and La Guardia are dissidents, and that all of this has been made up to repress them. Other press organizations that work for imperialism in various countries are beginning to follow suit. It makes them happy, above all, to say that the revolution is in deep crisis, that this episode is an indelible stain, that there is division in the lines of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], and that the pillars of the revolution are breaking. It won't be long until they say that the revolution is on the verge of catastrophe. How little they know our people and the Cuban Revolution. How little they notice our ability to turn wrongs into victories, no matter how hard and bitter they may be.

They can never understand that a revolutionary process supports itself on solid patriotic and ethical principles, in a profound conscience and an elevated political culture. Nor can they understand that our revolution supported itself in the past, nor that it supports itself, and will always support itself, on honesty and truth. Our people know that the PCC has never lied to them. This is why, when faced with any problem, when the PCC speaks either through the more common channels or through its press organs, not a single word or a single comma deviates from the truth. This is such that even the counterrevolutionary worms—say what they may, in the nation or outside of it—know that this is our unchanging standard. The enemy is trying to fish in troubled waters; they try to take advantage of this episode to spread their slimy and repugnant infamy.

Facing the cleanest political and judicial process conceivable, they affirm that the accused are drugged and that they accept the charges in a mechanical manner. It is a miracle they have not yet begun to say that we have tortured them in an atrocious manner. Some hypocritical little groups that claim to be concerned with human rights have begun to squeal that a just trial is needed, that the accused have no guarantee of an impartial verdict, etc.

You could ask yourself if anywhere else in the world people accused of such a grave crime have ever received such exquisite treatment or if the people and international public opinion have ever been given a greater amount of details to analyze the events. Not only the Honor Tribunal, but also the judicial processes have been and are being publicized by radio, television, and the written press in an unprecedented way. Our people

are proud and satisfied with the information received. There may be diverse points of view regarding the sanctions the guilty should receive, but there is not a single citizen that doubts the gravity and significance of the crimes these men have committed. Nobody doubts the veracity of the accusations nor the guilt of the accused. Many little counterrevolutionary groups abroad have begun to exalt Ochoa as a political dissident, an innocent victim of the revolutionary government, a new Huber Matos who must be saved at all cost.

Some enemy press organizations say that now in Cuba you will not be able to speak of the heroism at Cuito Cuanavale, of the prowess displayed in southern Angola, nor of internationalism. It is certainly very bitter that while every day hundreds of rockets fell on the heroic defenders of Cuito Cuanavale; while our troops advanced undefeatedly and unhaltingly on the right flank of the southern front, dealing an astounding and strategic blow to the enemy; while our compatriots fell on the battlefield; when all of this was happening in mid-May of 1988, Ochoa, who was carrying out his duties as chief of the Cuban mission in that country and was on a working visit to Cuba to receive orders from the high command, dedicated himself, along with his aid Captain Martinez, to outlining and giving the finishing touches to the drug-trafficking agreements and plans he elaborated with Pablo Escobar. Ochoa, the same as Antonio de La Guardia and his group, exposed the nation and the revolution to mortal danger. Not just because Cuba could be accused, with irrefutable proof, of these facts, but because they could undermine the revolution's morals and prestige. The two most powerful weapons we defend ourselves with could have been used to sharpen imperialism's claws against our fatherland and weaken our defenses.

With their irresponsible conduct, they were placing in jeopardy the products of heroism and the blood and sweat spilled during more than 100 years of struggle.

It is obvious that the United States' intelligence organizations knew that since the first part of 1985, although spaced out over time, planes carrying drugs from Colombia were landing at Varadero airport with the complicity of Cuban officers. They knew who those officers were because, as it is now known, they had agents infiltrated among those who carried out these operations. However, they did not say a single word, officially or confidentially, to the Cuban Government. They could have stopped several tons of drugs from being imported into the United States, but they were more concerned with getting arguments for their anti-Cuban campaigns than with stopping drugs from being taken into that country. Without a doubt, they were gathering proof and preparing a hefty case against our fatherland. Perhaps they were planning to recruit, via blackmail, future CIA agents from among the accused. No matter what their purpose may have been, they have received a shocking blow.

This is why this wrong is now being turned into a victory. Our working people, the militants of the PCC, our youthful students, our glorious FAR, and the unyielding tens of thousands of Ministry of the Interior combatants who had nothing to do with those who did not vacillate in throwing tons of mud on their worthy uniforms are more united and confident than ever in the greatness and invincibility of our revolution. The honor tribunal's sessions and the words spoken by each one of its members constitute one of the most impressive pages of our political history. There, we were able to see why our FAR is what it is and what kind of men take the responsibility and privilege of guiding our brave soldiers into combat.

Our friends in the world—as well as those who are neither friend nor foe, even many that are adversaries to socialism—have expressed true admiration for the political clarity and bravery with which our nation has faced this problem.

The wrong should be ripped out by the roots; insults should be cleansed in an exemplary manner. There can be no vacillation or doubt in moments of decision. If Marti said that trenches of ideas were worth more than trenches of stone, today we must reconstruct and reinforce the trenches of our morals and honor that were treacherously attacked by the irresponsibility, thoughtlessness, and the deterioration in the personal conduct of people who came from our own ranks. Not a single stone of those trenches can be left without repair. The revolution will come out of this exemplary process with more strength than ever, and those who fell to make it possible and to spread its glorious path with their blood will be able to feel proud of it more than ever.

Castro Reportedly Cancels Trip to Argentina

PA0207162889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1557 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Havana, 2 Jul (EFE)—EFE has learned from reliable sources that the drug-trafficking scandal will prevent Cuban President Fidel Castro from attending the presidential inauguration of Peronist Carlos Menem in Buenos Aires on 8 July.

The court-martial of 14 members of the Armed Forces and the Interior Ministry who are implicated in drug trafficking with the Medellin Cartel seems to be the main reason for this almost certain cancellation.

The sources indicated that the commotion created in Cuba by the drug-trafficking scandal and the development of the investigations, which Castro is personally following, led the president to cancel, for the time being, his scheduled trip to Buenos Aires.

The court-martial sessions will end with the publication of the sentence and the transfer of the decision to the political sector [instancias politicas] on a date close to 8 July, the day when Menem will take office.

Fidel Castro's absence or presence in Argentina has not been officially confirmed. However, this lack of information is common with presidential trips. [passage omitted]

If the court issues a death sentence, the verdict will pass to the Council of State—headed by Fidel Castro—which will make the final decision: commute or confirm the sentence.

The sources stressed that "this is not the time for trips, because all of the president's attention is focused on what is occurring in Cuba, whose population is closely watching the development of events."

According to EFE's information prior to the disclosure of the scandal, Castro had planned to attend the presidential inauguration in Argentina, a country with which Cuba maintains good relations.

Argentina and Cuba, which have greatly increased their economic trade in recent years, consolidated their good relations with the visit that outgoing President Raul Alfonsin paid to Havana to meet with Castro.

In any case, the Cuban leader's absence from Carlos Menem's inauguration seems to be solely a result of the delicate domestic situation in Cuba and will not influence his possible trips to other countries of the continent that will hold elections or presidential inaugurations.

Castro has confirmed his presence at the nonaligned countries summit in Belgrade in September, and he accepted the invitation from the socialist group in the European Parliament to address that forum.

Final Day of Ochoa Military Honor Tribunal

FL2806175289 Havana Domestic Radio and Television Services in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Jun 89

["Segments" of the "second and final session" of the Military Honor Tribunal of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, FAR, analyzing the conduct of Division General Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, presided over by Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro; date and place not given; all speakers identified by caption—recorded. An identical recorded version of this speech was carried on Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish at 0030 on 30 June, providing fills and clarifications]

[Text] [Rosales del Toro] Comrade Secretary, Division General Jesus Bermudez Cutino, please bring forth the next witness.

[Bermudez Cutino] Bring forth the witness, Colonel Antonio de La Guardia Font.

[Rosales del Toro] Colonel La Guardia Font, you are present as a witness at the Honor Tribunal that is analyzing the charges formulated against Division General Ochoa Sanchez to further clarify the acts that are being revealed here. We request that you strictly adhere to the truth in your statement.

How did you manage to cover up all these drug activities so that other organs of the ministry were not aware of them?

[La Guardia Font] We used the enterprise to justify the handing over of money. It was perfect. I really had very little control over it. I did not have an accounting apparatus. I did not have an accounting system nor was I subject to administrative [corrects himself] accounting control. Neither my operations nor my budget were subject to accounting control. I had an annual budget of $70,000 to do all my work, which was truly a very small amount. The control that did exist, from an administrative point of view, was not clearly defined and the money would come from one source or another. I once reported a $100,000 fertilizer sale which I said was sold in Costa Rica and in reality there was no fertilizer.

[Rosales del Toro] How were other state institutions used in drug trafficking under the guise of activities conducted by your MC [not further identified] Department.

[La Guardia Font] For example, some business activities were arranged with an organization. The plane would come for the merchandise. The plane would make a drug run [bombardeaba] to the banks of Key Sal. He would land and collect the drugs, refuel, and leave.

[Rosales del Toro] Was this the only instrument used?

[La Guardia Font] No, this method was used in addition to another similar method where we used the merchandise sold by Cubalse, such as antique furniture. We used this method twice [corrects himself] three times.

[Rosales del Toro] On what day did you begin to take measures once you became aware that certain matters had come to light?

[La Guardia Font] This happened in April when the [pauses]—what do you call it?—the radio section of the ministry's counterintelligence picked up a communication on an operation, an outside operation. They detected the operation by radiotelemetry. I learned about this. I was informed about it and I ordered that all operations be suspended.

[Rosales del Toro] Aside from the operations, what other measures did you take here in the country which involved subordinates working under you?

[La Guardia Font] No, I told them to suspend everything. In truth, the only thing left to do was to tell the drivers of the boats not to come anymore, not to return again, not to come anymore. The money that they owed us from those operations was $1 million. I asked if they could transfer it to Europe and from there send it to us here in Cuba. I had been informed that we had a profit of $250,000 in coffee commissions from a coffee operation in Africa. This would be used to justify the money once we received it.

[Rosales del Toro] Why was so much money distributed to so many people when you were detained?

[La Guardia Font] Because, because I was not able to... [incomplete sentence as heard] Since there was so much money, if they gave me $500,000, what I would normally do, if there was no problem, is take it to a safe. I would put it in a safe and little by little, I would distribute the money and justify it. Otherwise it would be very difficult to quickly justify $500,000.

Not having where.... [changes thought] Since this problem came up, I left a briefcase with over $400,000 at a friend's house. I told him to keep it for me, to keep the briefcase for me, so that I could continue to gradually justify the money.

I then asked him for—I don't remember if it was $200,000 or $250,000 which I received at the office. I entered it as a contribution, earnings; I really don't remember. I later asked him for another $100,000 and I once again received it. I did not have time for the rest because it was a lot of money. During the first 5 months, we distributed $1.3 million. We couldn't justify so much money. I had planned to distribute it gradually to the officers. I was preparing to leave my job for another position. The same officers who were staying would justify the $250,000 that was coming from Europe. This was the money that I asked be transferred from Europe as earnings from coffee sales. Little by little, they would say this was money that came from whatever operations they could use to justify the sum.

[Rosales del Toro] Why did the operations accelerate as of April?

[La Guardia Font] This happened because, in reality, it was the action of one of my officers. I had told them not to conduct any more operations, not a single one. I told them I did not want any more operations. I later found out that they had conducted about four operations in 2 weeks. It was horrible. I wasn't even aware that this volume of operations was being conducted without my knowledge. I learned when.... [changes thought] I didn't even know.... [changes thought] He told me that he was going to conduct one operation but that it was not going to be a large amount. I didn't even know about the rest. I learned about it when the radio section of counterintelligence became aware of the operations after they were conducted. He later told me that since no more operations were going to be conducted, he carried this one out to have a volume of money here for the rest of the year. That was the excuse he gave me. He wanted to guarantee funds for the rest of the year.

[Rosales del Toro] When and in what form did you and Ochoa discuss this matter?

[La Guardia Font] We discussed it in Angola in 1988....

[Rosales de Toro, interrupting] [Words indistinct]

[La Guardia Font] Yes, Gen Ochoa spoke vaguely about this to me. He mentioned the country's economic needs. Then the topic came up of using drugs to obtain large sums of money which could be used to help the country. He told me that there was a possibility of making $2 billion or $3 billion in 6 or 7 months.

Clearly, my level of operations would not allow me to make that amount of money. I would have to do this another way: by dealing with people who own the drugs, not the drug transporters, to guarantee the product from the laboratories, which involves a large sum of money or I would have to deal in very large, very large, very large [repeats himself] shipments, not shipments of 500, 400, or 600 kg which is what I think a small plane can carry.

The topic first emerged as a normal, mundane conversation. It was just a commentary. We discussed relations he had a year ago in Nicaragua with people from the drug world.

[Rosales del Toro] Did you at any time think that this would be discovered? Had you considered the consequences of everything you did?

[La Guardia Font] In reality, I never considered the consequences of everything I was doing. If I had thought more about this... [incomplete sentence as heard] I was motivated by the interest of bringing in money. I was given a double task: to break the blockade—this maritime route was a way of attaining different things that were sometimes urgently needed—and the second task was to support my organization with convertible currency. Then in my zeal to excel, to advance, and attain these goals, I did not stop and analyze what I was doing. I didn't consider the consequences of this.

[Rosales del Toro] You are a professional officer and you are aware of the risks this created for the country and the security of the nation and at no time did you analyze the consequences...

[La Guardia Font, interrupting] I thought about it. I thought about it [repeats himself]. No, you can't say I didn't. I thought about it but I didn't.... [changes thought] First of all, I should never have done this. I later

thought about it. I should have decided against this and on several occasions I did decide not to do this. I told the officers not to conduct any more operations of this nature.

Three or four months would pass with nothing happening. We needed money and the officers would constantly come back to me. I also was being pressured by the officer who wanted to resolve this matter. He did not want to lose his ties, his method of attaining his goal. [clears his throat, coughs] They insisted and I would authorize the operation.

[Rosales del Toro] Tell us how the maritime installations were used. How did you arrange to use maritime or naval installations to secure this entire process?

[La Guardia Font] The boats would enter through Varadero and the officer would coordinate with the chief in Varadero. He would advise the chief that a boat would be arriving with a certain product and that the boat was authorized to enter at 1900, 2000, sometimes at 2100. The border guards would stay with the boat and the officer would take the material, the case to a house.

[Rosales del Toro] Why did the border guards accept this?

[La Guardia Font] They accepted it because it appeared to be a normal work contact. It seemed normal to the border guards. It seemed to be one of our operations. A boatman would come in. This had been going on for so many years, from 1981, 1982. This had been going on since 1981—1980 or 1981. It was normal for these boats to enter and to be kept here. The border guards would keep them in the canals and they did this with no concern.

[Rosales del Toro] How did the meetings take place in Cuba? What was your role in this and with the drug traffickers?

[La Guardia Font] During those meetings with drug traffickers in Cuba, I was only involved with the one that included Ramiro Lucio but it was not my intent to meet with any drug trafficker. I did not know he was a drug trafficker until he explained the situation to me and that was the only meeting I ever had with a drug trafficker in Cuba.

[Rosales del Toro] Comrade members of the tribunal: I ask you to authorize the comrades from the Interior Ministry [MININT] who have been hearing the case of the colonel to please come into the room and continue their interrogation of Comrade Colonel Antonio La Guardia Font. Do you agree? [tribunal answers: "Yes."] Please ask your questions from the podium.

[Division General Manuel Fernandez Crespo] I would like to ask a question, Comrade. What kind of instructions did you give Amado Padron to have Martinez [Captain Jorge Martinez Valdes, aide to Div Gen Ochoa] arrange a meeting with Colombian drug traffickers?

[La Guardia Font] Was that with Amado Padron's drug traffickers, the Colombians?

[Fernandez] Yes.

[La Guardia Font] I asked him to introduce his connection to Martinez.

[Fernandez] How did you coordinate this? How did the Colombians travel here to Cuba? Where was the meeting...

[La Guardia Font, interrupting] No, I do not know how the meeting occurred or how they traveled. I told Martinez about it. He had asked me several times to find him some contacts. I told Amado Padron: Amado, introduce some of the people you know to Martinez. I did not even know about the meeting. It seems they made contact in Panama somewhere but I did not know about a meeting in Cuba. I don't remember who they met.

[Fernandez] You probably know more than we do.

[La Guardia Font] Well, it could be. The only Colombian that I know is Ramiro Lucio. If he was the contact, then they met in Cuba but if it was someone abroad, Amado Padron made the contacts and he did not tell me where they met. Ramiro Lucio is the only person it could have been. On several occasions, Martinez insisted on making contact with the Colombians and Mexicans. I said that it was OK but I did nothing to set up the meetings with the Colombians and the Mexicans. The Mexican was supposed to move drugs, but in reality, he didn't move anything. I told Willy Pineda that he should not pay attention to what Martinez asked him and the same applied to Amado Padron. I called him several times and said: Leave that alone now. Don't continue to give... [incomplete sentence as heard] What I really did not know is where the meetings were held with the Colombians here in Cuba. If it wasn't with Ramiro Lucio, I don't know of any other Colombian that came here.

[Fernandez] I think so. I think that the witness Amado Padron should be asked about this later.

Another question we wanted to ask you is why did you begin to distribute the money to the officers in April?

[La Guardia Font] I...

[Fernandez, interrupting] You later destroyed the documents of the MC Department.

[La Guardia Font] I did not distribute any money to any officers. I never received any money to distribute. The only money I got from Amado Padron, which was the only money I received, was never taken to the office. I distributed this money to the accountant so that the money could be given to the enterprise and I continued the contributions until they totaled a million dollars but I never distributed any money to any of the officers.

[Fernandez] Comrade President of the tribunal: I would like to point out that in accordance with the investigations we have conducted, the detainee confirms that the objective of these operations was to resolve Cuba's economic problems. Nevertheless, it has been demonstrated that the fundamental objective of all the detainees has been to appropriate the money for their own personal profit. This has been demonstrated by the amount of money that was seized in homes and in various other locations where the money was hidden. It has also been demonstrated by the statements made by the detainees themselves. They cannot justify the possession of millions of dollars.

Because of this, we feel it has been clearly confirmed that the goal of these operations was primarily for their own personal profit. This has been demonstrated by the money, by the large quantity of equipment they have, the number of cars they have, and by a number of other things that have been seized.

Nevertheless, the detainee has said that these operations were conducted for the purpose of turning the money over to our country. We would like to have this put on the record at this tribunal.

I would like to ask the detainee another question. Explain why a number of measures were taken as of 24 April to destroy all evidence of these operations.

[La Guardia Font] In reality, I never had any documents pertaining to these operations. I never wrote any document or made any entry in a book or made an (?invoice). What I did was receive the money and justify it. I never wrote a report. Officers were not required to give me a report on their operations. They were not required to brief me on these or give me any type of document.

The only document I destroyed was a document on a debt incurred by a Mexican. We had given him some money, $600,000, to invest in a bank that buys and sells stock and to buy two airplanes; one was from a company selling Lear jets. We were charged $175,000 for a small cargo plane and $100,000 for the small Lear jet. All that money was lost. This was the only document written for the purpose of billing the Mexican and that was the only document I destroyed.

I never destroyed any other document because I never wrote any other document. I never knew about the money the officers had. I don't have any reason to lie. They never told me they had that money. I believed that the officers were honest and lived very simply. I bought four cars that were given to four officers who conducted that type of operation but I knew nothing about the money that was hidden in those houses. I did not know they had that money. I truly didn't know that. If they told you that I knew about it, they're lying. I never distributed that money. They always hid it from me. I never, never [repeats himself] knew of that money.

[Fernandez] Mr Tribunal President: What was written supposedly by shipping agents on trade matters that were authorized with the people who cooperated with them is the part that corresponds to their operations and these documents were all destroyed. Not a single operation is on record.

It has been demonstrated that the documents were shredded on 24 April and we want you to answer the question pertaining to the 24th. Why were measures taken to destroy all documents and shut down all operations after the 24th?

[La Guardia Font] I explained this. I learned on the 24th that these operations were being looked into. A yacht operation had been approved for us. We were going to purchase a yacht to sell to the INTUR [National Institute of Tourism] which was also a way to cover-up these operations.

I sent word to all the officers to suspend all operations, to conduct no further operations. This problem was now out in the open. There was evidence of these operations. I told them to conduct no further operations and to not allow anyone else to come to Cuba.

[Fernandez] Another question: How much did you charge in dollars for the drug trafficking operations?

[La Guardia Font] Of those that I was informed about, it was approximately—I can't be categorical; I can't cite a precise figure because this occurred in 1987 and I never recorded this—$2.5 million or $3 million. I think it was $2.5 million.

[Fernandez] It was about $2.5 million?

[La Guardia Font] Or it might have been $3 million.

[Fernandez] Mr President: I have concluded for the moment. I would like the other comrade to ask him some questions. When witness Amado Padron has the floor, I would like to question him.

[Lieutenant Colonel Pedro Alvarez Lugo] Lt Col Alvarez Lugo, with your permission, Mr President.

Detainee: Who directed the drug trafficking operations in the MC Department?

[La Guardia Font] I was the chief of the department.

[Alvarez Lugo] No, who directed the operations?

[La Guardia Font] I did. I was the one who authorized the operations. I never had direct participation. I was never able to have direct control over the operations because I never had ties with the boatmen, the traffickers. To truly direct this, I would have needed direct contact to find out what amount of drugs they were talking about, how and where this would take place, what the net profit would be. I always got this information from the officer, the two chiefs that directed the operations. One was Elmer and the other was Amado Padron. They were the ones who informed me of the operation and its result.

[Alvarez Lugo] Then you are implying that the fault was of the...

[La Guardia Font, interrupting] No, no, no, no, no [repeats himself], the fault is mine. I assume all responsibility because I was the chief and I did not control it. I really never controlled the situation and I assume complete responsibility.

[Alvarez Lugo] We know from the number of years you have been in the ministry that you are an expert in different kinds of special operations. That is why you were sent there at that time because you were a comrade who had vast knowledge in all types of special operations.

Could such an expert get involved in the kind of situation you described which presents a danger to the country, to everyone, as has been demonstrated in these proceedings?

[La Guardia Font] Let me explain. I told them to conduct the operation in a certain way. First of all, do it like this or like that, I would say. I later learned from the things I have been told about the interrogation of the others that the operations were not conducted in the manner in which I instructed. In some cases, they did follow my instructions and other times they didn't.

I should have been in direct contact with the operations. Sometimes I found myself... [changes thought] I did not devote the amount of time that I should have to my work. I should have done this myself but I didn't.

[Alvarez Lugo] Comrade President: I am asking this question as a prelude to the next question. How many times did you find yourself involved in this type of activity.

[La Guardia Font] I found myself involved in this kind of activity four or five times, many times, many times [repeats himself].

[Alvarez Lugo] What was your degree of dishonesty in reference to our chiefs, to the division here in reference to this matter?

[La Guardia Font] It was total, total, total, total [repeats himself].

[Alvarez Lugo] Why did you do it?

[La Guardia Font] I did it because I wanted to bring in money. It was poorly handled. I know that I can't justify it whatsoever.

[Alvarez Lugo] Money was discussed here. You said you had not hidden any money.

[La Guardia Font] That was in the office. If at that time I had taken the $500,000 to the office with the problem that existed and an audit was conducted, there was no way I would be able to justify the money.

[Alvarez Lugo] Were you acting honestly?

[La Guardia Font] No, I [corrects himself] yes.

[Alvarez Lugo] You said you had nothing to hide and you...

[La Guardia Font, interrupting] No, no, no, no [repeats himself]. I did hide it. To turn the money in, I had to falsify the origin of the money. I had to say it came from operations that really did not exist.

[Alvarez Lugo] Then you mean that you did take measures to hide the money?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, yes, yes [repeats himself]. Yes, completely, the operations were totally covered up.

[Alvarez Lugo] How much money did the accountant also hide for you hours before the arrest?

[La Guardia Font] The accountant had.... [changes thought] I returned to my house at night on Friday or Thursday and I learned from my wife that the accountant said she had an extra $40,000 in the safe that did not balance with her records. She said she would send it to Miguelito, who is the administrator of the (Melback), for safekeeping. I said fine. What I did not want was for anyone to find out that there was more money than what was actually registered...

[Alvarez Lugo, interrupting] Do we need more proof that the money was being hidden and handed over to others?

[La Guardia Font] No, I swear that I did not give any, I did not give a cent to any officer. The money the officers had was obtained...

[Alvarez Lugo, interrupting] Comrade President: I ask this question because, as the comrade division general who preceded me explained, during the investigation of all the officers that work under Col La Guardia, vast sums of money were found. The money was found in the door of a Frigidaire. Some money was found in a box

buried under fresh cement; the box had just been buried. Their actions have clearly shown that they were hiding money. The money was hidden. It wasn't hidden out of fear. The money was hidden because they planned to use it. They were going to use it. This was not simply a matter of being afraid. They did it progressively, methodically, and it happened in this case, too.

The detainee mentioned the officers' style of living. Do you really think that the style of living of the comrade officers directly involved in this activity was as humble and simple as you said?

[La Guardia Font] I did not really... [rephrases] I thought they had a simple life-style. I really was not familiar with their life-style. I had no idea of that.

[Alvarez Lugo] You also had no idea how your officers lived?

[La Guardia Font] No, I had no idea how my officers lived.

[Alvarez Lugo] Is that also the fault of...

[La Guardia Font, interrupting] No, no, it is my fault. It is my fault. It is all my fault. It is my fault; not the fault of the officers.

[Alvarez Lugo] [Words indistinct] and Amado Padron? Did the officer that worked for you live simply?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, but I...

[Alvarez Lugo, interrupting] You were the chief who worked (?alongside) the accused. He had that and he had 17,000 other things. He had other things besides those things that any other person here can have and on top of that, he was arrogant. This group of comrades were characterized by their arrogance. They were people who, even in that same department, they were referred to as being arrogant because of their attitudes, the way they acted, the way they walked and dressed. The other group of comrades who had nothing to do directly with their activities described them as being arrogant.

That is why I asked this question because it is important to clarify that it wasn't the way the detainee described it. Money was used here. This money was used for their own personal benefit. They bought cars. Thousands of objects were seized. They had everything from a [words indistinct]. [Video shows jewelry, diamonds, and watches from Amado Padron's house; identified by caption.] These things were found among the items that were seized. That money was used for this. That is why I asked that question. I have concluded, Comrade President.

[Rosales del Toro] Thank you very much.

[Alvarez Lugo] I request your permission to leave.

[Rosales del Toro] Colonel, why and for what purpose did you give $50,000 to Ochoa?

[La Guardia Font] He asked me for it. I didn't know what he was going to use it for. I don't know. He asked me for the money.

[Rosales del Toro] How much did he ask you for?

[La Guardia Font] He asked me for $100,000. I didn't have that amount of money so I gave him $50,000 and I don't know what he used the money for.

[Rosales del Toro] To whom did you specifically give the money?

[La Guardia Font] I gave the money to Martinez [yawns].

[Rosales del Toro] Did Martinez say why...

[La Guardia Font, interrupting] No, Martinez did not explain what the money was for. I gave it to him in an envelope and he...

[Rosales del Toro, interrupting] Where did that money come from?

[La Guardia Font] That money came from operations, from the last operation.

[Rosales del Toro] The one that occurred in Varadero?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, the operation that took place in Varadero.

[Rosales del Toro] Comrade members of the tribunal, you have the floor. General Quintas.

[Division General Joaquin Quintas Sola] Tony La Guardia, despite the questions and responses you have given, the following is not clear to me; perhaps you can clarify this. Who's idea was it to initiate operations with the drug traffickers?

[La Guardia Font] The idea emerged when I arrived at CIMEX [State Enterprise for Import Export]. A section already existed there to bring in merchandise from the United States. The purpose of sending me there was to indirectly and covertly bring electronic items, medicine, scientific-technical information, and other items into the country that were not available because of the U.S. embargo.

[Quintas Sola] That was authorized?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, that was authorized.

[Quintas Sola] The drug trafficking operations were authorized?

[La Guardia Font] No, no, no [repeats himself] that was not approved by anyone.

[Quintas Sola] Who's idea was it?

[La Guardia Font] The idea came from the officers. They described it to me and I authorized it. I told them yes. I took the initiative.

[Quintas Sola] It was your initiative?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, yes.

[Quintas Sola] Who was the exact officer who suggested this to you?

[La Guardia Font] The first one to make this proposal was Amado Padron. A month or 2 weeks later, he...

[Quintas Sola, interrupting] Another question: You explained the matters pertaining to the more than $1 million that was found dispersed among the officers. Can you tell us if you knew about this?

[La Guardia Font] I did not know about this.

[Quintas Sola] Colonel Patricio [corrects himself] Col La Guardia, this is a little illogical. I think you should give this a little more thought because it is practically impossible for you to not know that this money was in the hands of all these people.

[La Guardia Font] I honestly tell you that I have accepted all responsibility here. I accept all, all, all [repeats himself] the responsibility for this. There is no doubt about this. If I had known that they had that money, I would tell you. There is nothing left for me to hide. I have no reason to. I have already stated that the responsibility is mine. I did this at my initiative. I truly did not have any idea about the money. The true image that I had of these officers was that they did not live ostentatiously. [Camera freezes video frame and no audio is heard for 1 minute and 15 seconds, during which captioning over frozen picture reads: Authorities confiscated from Eduardo Ruiz Izquierdo—one of Tony de La Guardia's closest collaborators—in Santa Maria $159,090; in Reparto Guiteras, under a cement block, $108,000; in Santo Juarez $26,600; in Reparto California de San Miguel del Padron, hidden inside a refrigerator $166,020; in total $459,710 and 100,620 Cuban pesos. From Antonio Sanchez Lima $262,911; from Amado Padron $294,918.38 and 36,976.20 pesos; from Gabriel Prendes Gomez $35,150 and 133,160 pesos; and from Miguel Ramos Ruiz Po $21,120 and 55,705 pesos. Eight cars were confiscated from Amado Padron, his confidant]. I had to give them cars, I mean, I (?sold) a car to each of them last year, as none of them had one. Where they live... [changes thought] I did not have the same type of relations, the friendships that another person could have.

[Quintas Sola] What about the boats you bought which you would later sell here in the country? What did you do once the crew returned?

[La Guardia Font] The yacht was purchased.

[Quintas Sola] Was this a secret operation?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, yes, yes [repeats himself], the yacht would arrive with the crew. They would leave the yacht and depart. They would leave. Not all yacht operations were for drug trafficking purposes. There were normal yachts [corrects himself] yachts for normal purposes. However, those yachts that could be used were left here. When the boat came to pick us up.... [changes thought] When the crew returned to the United States, a plane would make a drop [bombardeaba] at a certain point and they would continue their trip with the drugs to the United States.

[Quintas Sola] Excuse me, what did you do with the yacht? .

[La Guardia Font] The yacht was left here and sold to another organization. It was sold to the INTUR.

[Division General Ramon Pardo Guerra, title as identified by caption] When you transferred to the MC Department, your chief gave you a well-defined objective?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, correct.

[Pardo Guerra] It was well-defined.

[La Guardia Font] Yes.

[Pardo Guerra] And you learned through your officers of these drug trafficking contacts?

[La Guardia Font] No, look, it was like this: When I was transferred from the troops, they sent me to CIMEX. The task I was given at CIMEX was to create a structure to break the blockade, to bring in merchandise.

[Pardo Guerra] We know that. I want you to tell me that...

[La Guardia Font, interrupting] When I moved into MC, intelligence, the officers suggested, very insistently, that some operations be conducted.

[Pardo Guerra] These were the officers who were your subordinates?

[La Guardia Font] They were my subordinates.

[Pardo Guerra] You at no time advised your superiors about this?

[La Guardia Font] Never, I never informed them.

[Pardo Guerra] Why didn't you do so?

[La Guardia Font] I did not do it...

[Pardo Guerra, interrupting] Why?

[La Guardia Font] Because...

[Pardo Guerra, interrupting] Weren't you aware that this was a serious error?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, of course, I...

[Pardo Guerra, interrupting] Weren't you aware of all the implications of this?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, I was completely aware that it was a serious error and I was aware of the implications.

[Pardo Guerra] You said that on several occasions you analyzed.... [changes thought] I remember the question the president of the tribunal asked you. He then said that this was an act of disloyalty to the MININT.

[La Guardia Font] Yes, yes, yes [repeats himself].

[Pardo Guerra] And you knew this?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, yes, yes [repeats himself].

[Pardo Guerra] And you continued with the operations?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, yes, yes [repeats himself], general.

[Pardo Guerra] Then you were aware of everything you were doing?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, of course, I was aware of everything I did.

[Pardo Guerra] You were completely aware of what you were doing and what your subordinates were doing?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, I was aware of what my subordinates did.

[Pardo Guerra] And you continued the expansion?

[La Guardia Font] I continued the expansion?

[Pardo Guerra] You continued expanding your business?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, the operations began in 1987 and I knew about the operations up to the present.

[Pardo Guerra] And you interrupted the operations because you had an indication they were being investigated.

[La Guardia Font] I was going to.... [changes thought] In 1988, I ordered that the operations be suspended. That was last year. Early this year, they suggested I once again resume the operations. I told them to go ahead and conduct two or three operations and end it there.

[Pardo Guerra] It seems your subordinates had great influence over you. You did not control them well.

[La Guardia Font] I did not control them well.

[Pardo Guerra] Why?

[La Guardia Font] Because of the volume of work, the volume of work [repeats himself] in the department. I did not have a way to exert any control.

[Pardo Guerra] I agree with the rear admiral that you, with your position of responsibility, your experience, should have been well-informed of all this and you should have planned all those operations well. One cannot simply admit that an action as serious as that could have happened as you say it did. No, no...

[La Guardia Font, interrupting] I am not trying to have you overlook anything.

[Pardo Guerra] I don't think it can be this way.

[La Guardia Font] I would like you to interview the officers so that you can see the degree of control that I had over the operations. I want you to see, so that you can believe me, how much control I had, how much I participated in the operations.

[Pardo Guerra] Then you are aware that you have committed an act of treason?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, I am aware...

[Pardo Guerra, interrupting] Are you aware of this?

[La Guardia Font] Yes, I am aware of this.

[Video now shows Major Amado Padron speaking as a witness. He is shown dressed in civilian clothing. Ochoa, La Guardia Font, and the tribunal members are all shown in uniform.]

[Rosales del Toro] Tell us a little about the money, the volume, the quantity, the process of how you saved it...

[Amado Padron, interrupting] The money was always directly handed over to Tony [Antonio de La Guardia Font] after an operation. I gave him the money. Sometimes I was accompanied by an officer; sometimes I would take it to his office. All the money was a product of this operation.

During the last operations, the final operation, we decided, because of all the events that were occurring—Tony was going to be replaced. He was replaced. They were saying he would be replaced there—that the money, according to Tony, would be distributed later after we handed it over to him. He would identify some trade operations to turn over [corrects himself] to justify the money which was being turned over to the leaders of the ministry.

Tony could not receive any money during the last operation because he could not justify it. We decided to save this money so that later, when possible, we could justify it.

[Rosales del Toro] How much money was involved?

[Amado Padron] It was about $300,000.

[Rosales del Toro] How was that money distributed? How was that money saved?

[Amado Padron] First of all, each officer received $25,000. The four...

[Rosales del Toro, interrupting] Give us examples of who received the money.

[Amado Padron] Willy, Miguel, Eduardo, and Joel received the money.

The rest of the money that was hidden in a refrigerator was left as is and it was given to Comrade Eduardo for safekeeping. Another amount of money was also placed in a refrigerator and then given to Comrade Carlos Pena for safekeeping.

[Rosales del Toro] How did you feel about Sanchez Dimas having $250,000?

[Amado Padron] I don't know him. He does not work with me; he works in another section.

[Rosales del Toro] What kind of relations did he have with you?

[Amado Padron] He had work relations with us. He worked in the same department but he really did not have any other kind of relations with us.

[Rosales del Toro] What do you think about his having that money?

[Amado Padron] I did not know about this; I found out about it here. If he had that money, then it was the result of an operation he conducted.

[Rosales del Toro] Do you think there may be other operations besides the ones you were involved in?

[Amado Padron] If that money exists, then, yes, I think so. Tony never said that other operations were being conducted but the ties that section had—the naval operations section—were ties that were practically identical to ours, drug trafficking ties. He spoke a lot to them by radio. They brought boats here to sell. That was one of their modi operandi. On several occasions I asked Tony if that kind of operation was being conducted with those people and he told me it wasn't but I think these types of operations did take place.

[Rosales del Toro] How much money do you think Eduardo Diaz had?

[Amado Padron] Eduardo Diaz? I think he had $25,000.

[Rosales del Toro] How can you explain the more than $150,000 that was confiscated from him?

[Amado Padron] I do not know.

[Rosales del Toro] Specifically, you gave him $25,000.

[Amado Padron] No, no, remember that the payment in one of the refrigerators was turned over to him for safekeeping.

[Rosales del Toro] How much money do you think Gabriel Prendes Gomez had?

[Padron] I don't know.

[Rosales del Toro] What ties did he have with you?

[Padron] He worked in the other section.

[Rosales del Toro] Did you give money to Miguel Ramon Ruiz?

[Padron] Yes.

[Rosales del Toro] How much money?

[Padron] We gave him $25,000?

[Rosales del Toro] You gave him $25,000.

[Padron] That is correct.

[Rosales del Toro] How much money did you give him in pesos?

[Padron] I don't know.

[Rosales del Toro] How do you explain the fact that he had more than $50,000?

[Padron] He must have converted the money...

[Rosales del Toro, interrupting] No, aside from the more than $21,000.

[Padron] More than $21,000?

[Rosales del Toro] He had $21,000 and besides that, he had 55,000 pesos. How can you explain this?

[Padron] I did not know he had that money. If he had exchanged the money, it would not have totaled that amount.

[Rosales del Toro] When you found out you had control [as heard] over U.S. naval operations from the information you received and also from what counterintelligence gave you, what did you do to keep from being detected? Tell us something about this.

[Padron] To keep from being detected?

[Rosales del Toro] Yes, how did you try to...

[Padron, interrupting] The first thing we did was to suspend all operations with these people and we tried to get all those already here out of the country immediately and we told them not to come back again until...

[Rosales del Toro, interrupting] Who was here then?

[Padron] A group of four boats, about six or eight boatmen were here. As soon as the operations were complete, we got them out of the country. We went along the coast to (Vayacay) and we got them out of the country there so that they would not run into the U.S. authorities who were probably out in front of Varadero.

[Rosales del Toro] Gondin.

[Division General Carlos Fernandez Gondin] What was your objective in these drug operations?

[Padron] General, although it may have been erroneous and dishonest, from the first operation, our intent was to help the country receive dollars. In reality, we never, never, never [repeats himself] expected this to reach this magnitude.

[Fernandez Gondin] How do you explain the fact that the money, the dollars, were exchanged for Cuban money here? Why did you do this?

[Padron] That was at the end of the operations. We exchanged some money because we needed it. We did not receive a single cent from the ministry. Besides the money for us, some of that money was used to cover office expenses in Cuban pesos.

[Fernandez Gondin] Padron, do you recall an invitation Tony La Guardia received from Pablo Escobar? Do you know anything about this?

[Padron] No, I don't.

[Fernandez Gondin] But you know that Martinez went...

[Padron, interrupting] Yes.

[Fernandez Gondin] He represented Tony.

[Padron] No, I did not know he was representing Tony.

[Fernandez Gondin] Martinez told you about everything he did there.

[Padron] It's that...

[Fernandez Gondin, interrupting] He told you about his conversations and plans.

[Padron] That's correct. That's correct. [repeats himself]

[Fernandez Gondin] How did Martinez manage to meet with Pablo Escobar?

[Padron] I earlier said here that it was arranged by the people who were here: the girl and the other two people. He left for Panama and from Panama he continued on to Colombia but we did not know he was going to Colombia. We found out after he returned and told us about it.

[Fernandez Gondin] Padron, do you know who is involved, has knowledge of, or has participated in drug trafficking?

[Padron] No one except Comrade Martinez.

[Fernandez Gondin] Only Martinez?

[Padron] That's correct.

[Fernandez Gondin] Who gave orders to Martinez?

[Padron] Gen Ochoa.

[Fernandez Gondin] Do you know if Ochoa knew of all this?

[Padron] I imagine he did but he didn't tell me so.

[Fernandez Gondin] Who do you know that was involved in these activities? Think about it and give us the names.

[Padron] All the comrades who worked with me.

[Fernandez Gondin] Can you give us the names?

[Padron] Yes. The names are Comrade Captain Miguel Ruiz, Comrade Captain.... [changes thought] First of all, there is Comrade Colonel Antonio de La Guardia, Comrade Captain Miguel Ruiz, Comrade Captain Joel Soto, Comrade Captain (Rosa Maria Bien), Comrade Deputy Lieutenant Eduardo Diaz, and me. [video frame freezes, no audio is heard for 30 seconds, during which captioning

reads: From Amado Padron, in addition to $294,918.38 authorities confiscated: 36,976.20 pesos, 156 kg of cocaine, 7 rifles, 6 shotguns, 11 pistols, and 8 revolvers]

[Announcer introduces opening statement by Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez.]

[Rosales del Toro] You may say whatever you consider necessary in reference to the accusations made here.

[Ochoa] Mr President, before remarking on the accusations against me, I feel it is my basic duty, because it has been my main concern during the past few days.... [changes thought] I have read everything in the press, seen the reports on television, and heard the reports on radio. I heard the minister's speech [speech by FAR Minister Raul Castro at 0053 GMT on 15 June]. I've listened to the opinions of the workers repudiating all this and I would like to add that I agree with what they think. I would never in my life in any way try to justify an act such as this.

My main concern in this has not been for me but for the Revolution. Why? Because the Revolution, throughout history has had a very clear, crystal clear policy in reference to everything related to drug trafficking. While the PCC was stating that it had nothing to do with this, we were involved in these activities. This without a doubt could cause or has caused the enemy to have great doubts on the veracity of what the Revolution was saying, specifically the commander in chief who has always had a very clear policy on all this.

I want to confirm in front of this tribunal—although I think you know this—that neither the commander in chief nor the minister, the party, the government, nor anyone in the Armed Forces ever had anything to do with this. All of this was my doing and I want to assume this responsibility before all of you. I think that one of the most serious responsibilities I have is the national and international notoriety this has received. I would like to state this before everyone. I repeat, nothing hurts me more personally than the indignation of the people; nothing can be worse than that..

I am the one responsible for this materially as well as morally. Those who followed me in this are not responsible; I am fully responsible.

I do not want to clarify my motives here, explain what motivated me. I think that is unimportant.

I am particularly aware of the hornet's nest I have thrown here among this body of generals and I have reflected on their indignation. I have thought: Treason is treason, no matter what shape it takes.

I can imagine what a lot of people say about our generals. They think: Yesterday that bandit Del Pino betrayed the country and today another one did the same. I profoundly regret having thrown that image on our corps of generals.

In reference to the accusations against me, I would also like to say that not only what is being said here today, but everything that has been carried by the press, television, everything that has been reported is based on the exact truth.

I think that the account of events that was recently given by the minister is much more explicit an account than I could give. I would not be able to give a chronology of the events as is listed in this document. That's the way it is.

Now I would like to say something else: The minister said something that is exactly as he said it. I've given it a lot of thought. I've been thinking what to say here today. One of the things I've considered is how to be as concise as possible and convey the idea of what our responsibility is. I will tell you it is not easy, because of the torment I have gone through and am going through from betraying the country, to focus on what the motives were that little by little brought me to this serious state.

I do believe that one does something like this for a reason and because of something in his life. I would say it starts to happen when one is given an order and ends up thinking that the higher command is a poor order, no? Once thinking along these lines, one begins to think independently and begins to believe that he is right and then he himself morally justifies the terrible things he commits, no? I can give you an example. The truth is here. Otherwise, how could I have justified this to myself at a certain time, no? Yes?

I did this in Angola, something I had never done before in my life. I brought a little bit of money back with me and I thought I would use it in the Western Army. Let's assume that it was [corrects himself] that it wasn't all so bad to use it for the Western Army; it needs all sorts of things. This shows that one can personally justify these actions on a moral basis, no? When one comes to a point like this, one does not know what to do. He loses his head; he loses his head [repeats himself] and I repeat, there are things that I cannot justify. One cannot explain it to himself. One cannot explain it to himself [repeats himself] and it is not a lack of bravery, but it's that he lacks the words.

It is not just you and the people who are indignant; I am also indignant with myself because if there is a single human being who had no reason to do this, it is me, no matter what the motivation.

One does isolated things and things and things [repeats himself] and now when I look at this, I see the great horror that has been committed, no? When it is happening, you don't see it this way, no? But there is no doubt

that this is where the degradation begins, the moral problems; problems of all types start here and I don't think it is necessary to repeat it.

However, I do want to tell the comrades that I think I betrayed the fatherland and I tell you with all honesty that one pays for treason with one's life. Unfortunately, I did become corrupted. I never in my life lacked any assistance. There is the assistance that the comrades know about and the assistance they don't know about.

I don't think that there is any better assistance than the kind that I never used, which is self-analysis, to self-analyze oneself, to see if one's own conduct is in conformance. I think that some people are more inclined to this type of thing because of their own nature; I'm one of these people. Other people are more disciplined. They are that way and they practice it. They are less inclined to this type of thing, no? I never used self-analysis as a weapon to defend my conscience. I don't think I ever used this method.

The terrible things that have occurred in all this have been exposed. The comrades will make their statements. However, I am aware, not of what is left of my life, but that even in 200 years of heroism, I would never be able to make it up to the Revolution and such a trite idea would never even cross my mind.

Today the one who speaks here, with everything that has happened, does not have the slightest doubt that he is a much cleaner revolutionary than he previously was. I don't have the slightest doubt. Modest as it may be, regardless of the decision taken against me, you may be certain that I will continue to be a revolutionary and clean and clean [repeats himself].

I cannot tell you anything else that.... [changes thought] What can a person say when he is despised by his people because of his own fault? I think that, today, the tribunal of my own conscience is harsher than any other.

Something that I have not finished is the topic of assistance. When the minister called me—I think that is when it began to happen. He called me twice—I should admit I lied to him and I wasn't brave enough to confront this, not confront the minister, but to confront the things that I had to tell him. When I decided to do so, there was no more time. I decided on this because I knew that the facts would become known. I didn't decide to do this to save myself, because I am sure that it would have been discovered whether I admitted it or not because the immorality of this was so great that it had to have the same consequences, regardless. There was no other alternative. There was no other alternative. [repeats himself]

Above all, the fatherland, the morale of the Revolution was involved. It seems—and I believe it—that the Cuban Revolution has known how to overcome this because of its prestige, morale, and stature. There was no other way out. There was no other way out [repeats himself]. Wherever I end up, for the remainder of my life, I will maintain this attitude and responsibility. Even though you may not believe me today, I am another person. I despise myself and I have no reason to live. I do not expect anything else.

This is the only thing I wanted to say. It is possible I may be able to continue later.

[Rosales del Toro] Div Gen Ochoa Sanchez, we had a number of questions for you but your statement admitting to the charges and the accusations made against you prevent us from asking you these questions so we want to concentrate on asking you only two questions.

The first question is the following: What kind of treatment have you received since your arrest?

[Ochoa] It has been perfect. I have received the treatment the Revolution gives to all detainees. In my case, I think I have not been treated like a prisoner. I have been treated normally.

[Rosales del Toro] Excuse me, would you please speak a little louder?

[Ochoa] In my case, I have been treated excellently. I have nothing to complain about.

[Rosales del Toro] My second question is: Some are saying that you were detained for opposing the policy of the Revolution. I'm referring to counterrevolutionary individuals. I'm referring to Del Pino, to (Wesmat), who made statements of this sort and also said that there is division in the heart of the FAR. What can you say about this?

[Ochoa] Well, in a case like this, it is logical to expect the enemy of the Revolution to take advantage of all this. There is no truth to their statements. I have never been opposed to the Revolution and I have nothing against the Revolution. On the contrary, everything is to the contrary.

In addition, I think that there exists now, more than ever, one of the largest revolutionary spirits and senses of brotherhood in the history of the country among the Revolution, Cuban people, and the FAR. I think that this is one of the reasons for the commotion this has created, no? There was no reason for this to happen, much less a political motive. That is even less likely.

I think one could expect the enemy to use all this for its purposes but it cannot be further from the truth that this happened for political reasons, that there are political differences among us. I think that has been made more than clear.

[Rosales del Toro] Do any members of the tribunal have any questions for Div Gen Ochoa Sanchez? Yes, do you have a question?

[Unidentified speaker] I have a question for Div Gen Ochoa. During the statement he gave on the charges presented against him at this tribunal, he also said that he had a conversation with his children. The other day you said this in the tribunal because this truly [words indistinct]. How is your family [words indistinct] to this matter?

[Ochoa] In the case.... [changes thought] I think you are asking me about my conversation with the minister, no?

[Speaker] No, with the children.

[Rosales del Toro] He's asking about your meeting with your children.

[Ochoa] Oh, with the children. I did nothing more with my children than state the truth, no? I took responsibility for the events. It was important to me that the children should not have to suffer at all for the mistakes of their father. I didn't want them to hear of this in a distorted way. There is no doubt that I have not passed this negative influence down to my children during their lifetimes. On the contrary, I have educated them within the principles of the Revolution and my children believe in me. It was important to me to clarify all the responsibility I have for these events.

This is what I told them. I perhaps did not tell them in such a crude way, but I did tell them that everything that has been published and everything that has happened has been the exact truth, no? I think they understood me, no? I repeat, this was an important step for me and I want to express my appreciation to you for allowing me to do this, no? That is what I told the children. To not extend this topic. It is known by the comrades who were present... [Ochoa is interrupted by announcer identifying following section as "portions of remarks made by the members of the Military Honor Tribunal."]

[Rosales del Toro] Comrade members of the tribunal, after having listened to the report presented by the FAR minister and the statements made by the infractor and the witnesses, we have the necessary elements to allow each one of us to present his views independently. We hope that each statement by each one of the tribunal members will be brief and concrete, stressing two principal things: your opinion on the guilt of Div Gen Ochoa Sanchez based on the serious charges against him and your recommendations in this matter so that we can take our proposals to the FAR minister.

The comrades should make their statements from the podium. Those who are ready may ask for the floor. Comrade General Senen Casas.

[Division General Senen Casas Regueiro] Comrade Tribunal President and the rest of the members:

As has been proved, in the opinion of this Honor Tribunal, Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez abandoned his principles, morals, and prestige, and he betrayed his people, his ideals, and our commander in chief. He accepted these principles when he joined the service. Gen Ochoa Sanchez is not worthy of being in our glorious party. He is not worthy of holding the title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba." He is not worthy of being a FAR general. He is not worthy of remaining in the ranks of the FAR. I have no doubt about this.

In my case, I call for him to be stripped of his title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba," as well as the rest of his decorations and medals; that he be stripped of his rank of FAR general; that he be dishonorably discharged from the ranks of the party and the glorious FAR.

Comrades of the Honor Tribunal, I recommend that Gen Ochoa be tried by a military tribunal and in my case, if I was one of the members, I would have no doubt that I would impose the penalty of death by firing squad [fusilamiento] as the most just sanction.

Comrade President, I have concluded.

[Rosales del Toro] Gen Gondin.

[Division General Carlos Fernandez Gondin] Comrade President and members of the tribunal:

Allow me to take a few more moments due to the position I have in the ministry. Comrades:

Before anything else, I speak to the Honor Tribunal in my position as FAR general. I am aware that each one of us has been given the responsibility of analyzing the conduct of Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez within the range of principles and ethics a revolutionary military member should follow in our country. It would be in no way an exaggeration to say that our people have an expectation in reference to the deliberations and recommendations of this tribunal which is as great as the expectation that undoubtedly exists in the heart of our Armed Forces. It is hoped that we will be responsible and arrive at conclusions that will be exemplary, that will correspond to the seriousness of the acts attributed to Ochoa, and that will acknowledge the distress that this unexpected blow has caused among our people.

Because of this, I want to add my voice to the proposal to request the most severe sanction allowed by the laws of the country. I am certain that there is no other person who is more convinced of this need than Ochoa himself and I firmly believe that he is able to understand with what bitterness, as was stressed by the comrade minister in his report, we confront this case; but we have no other alternative.

Ochoa's conduct has not left us room for anything but to draw a lesson from this painful experience, as hard and as long-lasting as it may be, so that an ideological and

moral degradation and disloyalty, as described by the accusations for which he will have to answer to the military tribunal, are never again repeated by a comrade who wins the highest recognition and honors that our party and state can bestow.

I also speak here in my position as the one responsible for the organization within our FAR that conducted the investigation which, out of necessity, was conducted intensely. When the first signs and evidence of great transgressions led to Ochoa's arrest, we received the order to intensify the investigation to clarify as much as possible the events, as well as to verify the information received from different sources and, where possible, to provide some reflection on what caused this regrettable case of ideological involution and moral aberration.

I should say that from the very beginning, the magnitude of the errors and the overwhelming proof accumulated demonstrated the raw truth that Ochoa had renounced his ethical values and had broken ideological ethics in such a way that his conduct became incompatible with his position as FAR officer.

With the thoroughness with which the commander in chief and the minister have educated us, we have conducted the investigations and have developed, through witnesses, an image of Ochoa's personality, the virtues, and potential qualities of that humble youth who joined the Rebel Army and who ascended during the first years of the Revolution and we were progressively able to see gaps, defects, and deviations.

It is true that Ochoa's conduct has always heavily influenced the complexities of his personality. For several years, his charismatic appeal coexisted with traces of boastful pedantry. Regrettably, this last feature prevailed. But much more important than this, as we have been able to determine in evaluating the volume of information that we have obtained, is the image of him, from an ideological point of view, opening himself up at a certain point in his career to influence, which is described in detail in the minister's report.

From that moment, it became an obsession with Ochoa to behave or become a great businessman, which not even an economist would consider, must less during the process of constructing socialism. Only through illicit proceedings, only through deception, only by separating himself more and more from our codes of conduct was Ochoa able to get close to that absurd goal. That is why it is not unusual that he completely scorns political activities. The activities of the party were practically a nuisance to him.

At the proper time, we should also analyze those premises which in our society, in one way or another, have been created out of necessity for our economy but which have not always been well understood nor well guided and which tend to favor mercantilistic inclinations such as those that motivated Ochoa.

Internally in the FAR, we and the political organizations have been called upon to seriously examine the conditions that are created in extraordinary situations in missions abroad. Our work should be done at a level substantially different from the daily life of our units in Cuba. It was precisely these conditions that led to the maximum expression and development of the tendency that was already present in Ochoa's conduct.

In conclusion, I want to appeal to Ochoa to maintain the attitude he has assumed at this tribunal for its undoubtedly educational and prophylactic importance and thus provide a service to the Revolution, even though these circumstances are difficult and painful.

[Rosales del Toro] Pardo.

[Div Gen Ramon Pardo Guerra] Comrade President of the Honor Tribunal, allow me to begin my statement by reading a letter sent by the collective of the Western Army to the FAR minister.

Army General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the FAR:

Comrade Minister:

The generals, officers, sergeants, soldiers, Camilitos [students of the Camilo Cienfuegos Military Vocational Schools], civilian workers of the Western Army, upon learning of the actions reported in reference to the immoral, dishonest, and treacherous attitude toward the principles of the Revolution on the part of Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez—who was for the second time being considered for the position of chief of the Western Army because of his experience and image in the fulfillment of different internationalist missions and because of his revolutionary career—support the decision made by the Higher Cadre Commission, by you, and by the commander in chief. At the same time, we condemn and repudiate the attitude assumed by Ochoa which conspires against the revolutionary training acquired in the ranks of the Rebel Army and among the troops of our unforgettable Camilo Cienfuegos.

Ochoa forgot the concept of loyalty that Camilo had toward the commander in chief. When he learned he was promoted to the rank of commander of the Rebel Army in the plains of the Cauto, he wrote to Fidel: It would be easier for me to stop breathing than to stop being loyal to your confidence.

May he [Ochoa] and his group receive the strongest and harshest measures that the tribunal that tries them can impose, as well as the hatred and scorn of the working class, of the working and combative people.

We make these statements on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the Western Army assuring you that our command will each day be a shield of the Cuban Revolution's ideology and morale, of socialism and internationalism.

Fraternally,

Signed: Chief of the Western Army, Division General [title as heard] Ramon Pardo Guerra.

Comrade President of the Honor Tribunal:

When we learned of this, when the minister informed us that Div Gen Ochoa Sanchez was to assume the command of the Army, we immediately contacted him and embraced him. We embraced him as brothers, just as the minister did. It was the embrace of his true family, not the embrace of those people he linked himself to or the embrace of those people who spoke here today.

Recognizing the seriousness of the acts committed by Div Gen Ochoa Sanchez, I ask that he be stripped of his honorary titles, his decorations; that he be dismissed and expelled from the ranks of the party and that the harshest measures be imposed upon him by the tribunal that tries him and I am in complete agreement that he receive the maximum sanction, the death penalty.

[Rosales del Toro] Tomassevich

[Division General Raul Menendez Tomassevich] Comrade President of the Honor Tribunal, comrade generals:

I briefly want to express my feelings during this time which is traumatic for everyone, once the conduct of Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa has been analyzed and once I have given my views on the serious nature of the acts proven here.

First of all, I want to say with all honesty and frankness that I felt a great admiration and respect for Ochoa. He joined the rebel army when he was very young to fight against the powerful and the exploiters in defense of his class, the humble, and the exploited. He bravely defended the cause of his people and that of other peoples who, as Che would say, required our modest efforts.

Today, I cannot in any way feel or think the same way because he did not know how to carry through to the end the just and noble cause that he defended yesterday. He thought himself powerful because of the merits and prestige he accumulated without stopping to think that those merits and that prestige existed because they were bestowed upon him by the Interior Ministry, the only truly meritorious and powerful body. These merits belonged to our FAR, which was created and guided by our beloved commander in chief, and which has been and will continue to be a worthy continuation of the Mambi Army and the rebel army, loyal to their founder and guide and loyal to our people.

Ochoa betrayed the Revolution, the FAR, our commander in chief, and the party. He betrayed his people and other brother peoples, his comrades in arms, and the comrades who, for more than 30 years, gave their brave lives for the fatherland.

Because of what has been previously presented, I propose to this tribunal that they recommend accordingly:

First of all, that he be stripped of the title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" and any other orders and decorations that were bestowed upon him.

Second, that he be demoted [degradado] and dishonorably discharged from the FAR, that he be dishonorably expelled from the ranks of the party and its Central Committee, as well as from the National Assembly of the People's Government, and that an exemplary legal sanction be imposed upon him which will wipe away the affront of his treason to the fatherland. That is what I say.

[Rosales del Toro] Admiral Aldo Santamaria Cuadrado.

[Santamaria Cuadrado] Request permission to begin. The rebel army and the FAR have practically been Gen Ochoa's whole life. He grew and developed there; it was there that he had the chance to become what he became; it was there that his many merits were recognized. Gen Ochoa's motives and actions, studied throughout these proceedings, are irreconcilable with revolutionary principles. The FAR minister made timely remarks to Gen Ochoa concerning his character and actions. Yesterday we experienced the painful satisfaction of hearing Gen Ochoa himself admit his responsibility in each and every one of these serious and unacceptable actions. We even heard him say what punishment he felt he should get. The seriousness of his mistakes and actions are inconceivable and unacceptable in a revolutionary. Without wishing to repeat what others have said, we cannot keep from mentioning his disregard for the trust and respect placed in him by the commander in chief, by the FAR minister, by our people, by our party, by our revolution, by us, and what is even worse, by our dead. Gen Ochoa destroyed all this in a short time.

For all of the above, I ask that this Honor Tribunal recommend the strongest military and political punishment for Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez.

[Rosales del Toro] Rear Admiral Pedro M. Perez Betancourt.

[Perez Betancourt] Comrade President of this Honor Tribunal, comrade members of this tribunal: Admitting to the serious charges, including those of treason to the fatherland, makes us somewhat sensitive and as revolutionaries, we hope that he is being honest. However, this does not diminish the seriousness of what has been done. I propose that this Military Honor Tribunal propose the following measures to the FAR minister:

1. That he be tried by a court martial because the charges presented here have proved beyond a doubt that these are military crimes and that the maximum punishment be applied.

2. Strip him of the rank he holds.

3. Strip him of all decorations he has received, including the honorary title of Hero of the Republic of Cuba.

4. That the Central Committee be given all the necessary elements to remove him as a member of the Central Committee and party member.

I feel that the measures I have suggested are in accord with the seriousness of the crime. In this manner, comrades, we will begin to wash away this outrage. I have finished, Mr President.

[Rosales del Toro] Division General Rogelio Acevedo Gonzalez.

[Acevedo Gonzalez] Request permission to speak. Mr president, comrades of the Honor Tribunal: We have known Arnaldo Ochoa for more than 30 years. For years, ties of friendship and affection united us.

Like many of the people here, I knew that there were shortcomings in Ochoa's personality, but I was inclined to justify those shortcomings, attributing them to his character.

Moreover, I knew that on various occasions our minister had directly or indirectly admonished Ochoa as his mistakes became known. The minister admonished Ochoa in the usual manner; that is, in a firm, principled, timely, and comradely manner.

I also know that some comrades, directly or indirectly alerted Ochoa to isolated events, failures, and mistakes he had made. However, no one ever thought or knew what we have learned over the past few days from the investigation by the Military Honor Tribunal.

No one knew how much Ochoa had gradually changed from being the revolutionary he was some years ago. Ochoa's activities and attitudes as stated at this Military Honor Tribunal and as demonstrated by witness' statements, the evidence, and the events, show Ochoa to be another man. This is not the revolutionary Ochoa I admired, loved, and respected.

Ochoa's corrupt and disloyal conduct has betrayed the confidence that Fidel, Raul, his comrades in the FAR, the party, and the Cuban people placed in him. I believe that Arnaldo Ochoa, with his disloyal, shameful, and corrupt behavior, has done a great deal of damage to the Revolution, and he has affected the FAR's prestige. I also believe that yesterday, when Ochoa addressed this hearing following the minister's statements, he offered self-criticism and correctly assessed this hearing's fairness and cleanliness. In my judgment, his statements lived up to the FAR minister's appeal to him in his report. I urge Ochoa to continue along this proper path, which I believe would help the Revolution, his children, and himself.

In conclusion, comrades, I believe that with all that has been said and proved at this military honor tribunal, the full weight of the revolutionary laws, military regulations, and party regulations should be brought to bear against Ochoa. Therefore I propose, first, that he be stripped of his rank and his membership in the FAR be revoked; second, I propose that the State Council strip him of the honorary title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba," as well as other decorations and medals; third, that Ochoa be presented with all the evidence of the court martial and that he be given the maximum sentence; fourth, as a member of the Central Committee, his case should be taken to the Political Bureau so that this body can analyze the punishment that will be imposed on him, present the proposal to the Central Committee Plenum, and propose that his position as a deputy in the National Assembly be analyzed. That is all.

[Rosales del Toro] Division General Joaquin Quintas Sola.

[Quintas Sola] Comrade President, comrade generals: As a general in the FAR and as a member of this Military Honor Tribunal, I believe that Division General Ochoa's culpability has been clearly proven, by his own testimony, which I believe was self-critical, and by the witness' statements. I believe that for us, as the comrade minister said, this is a bitter, but necessary and essential duty. That is all Comrade President.

[Rosales del Toro] Division General Pedro M. Garcia Pelaez.

[Garcia Pelaez] Comrade President, comrades: We have known Gen Ochoa for more than 31 years. We worked together in Camaguey and in other places.

With Gen Tomas Ceviche, I have been an Army general in three armies in Cuba for several years and have admired Gen Ochoa very much. Very recently, however, I have learned that he has violated the law and offended our discipline, our love for our homeland, and our party in a number of instances. Gen Ochoa has hurt the friendship and sincerity of us all. We are convinced that it is absolutely necessary to strip Gen Ochoa of his rank, decorations, and his membership in the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], the PCC Central Committee, and the National Assembly. He must be sent to a military court and given the stiffest sentence possible for all his crimes.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Guillermo Rodriguez del Pozo.

[Rodriguez del Pozo] Companeros of the Presidency and other members of the Military Honor Tribunal: I will not reiterate Gen Ochoa's activities because ample evidence of these activities has been provided and Gen Ochoa himself has admitted to them. Our revolution has profited from its setbacks since the attack on the Moncada garrison. This is why I am convinced that this embarrasing and shameful situation will strengthen the Revolution. Because of the

seriousness of his offenses, Gen Ochoa should be stripped of both his title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" and all medals and decorations he has received. He should be stripped of his rank and dishonorably discharged from the FAR. We recommend that Gen Ochoa be expelled from both the PCC Central Committee and the party. We recommend that the National Assembly cancel his membership and that he be tried by a military court and given the maximum sentence.

[Rosales del Toro] General Sergio del Valle Jimenez.

[Del Valle] I, Division General Sergio del Valle Jimenez, before this Military Honor Tribunal and full of unavoidable indignation, have this to say: The charges leveled at Gen Ochoa by companero and FAR Minister Raul Castro Ruz are evidently true. This has been confirmed by Ochoa's confession, statements by witnesses, and the inquiries that were conducted. With the sad, quiet bitterness caused by the certainty of the evidence gathered from the exhaustive inquiries carried out, I think it is my duty to recommend that Gen Ochoa be declared guilty of the charges presented against him at this Honor Tribunal; that his case be taken to a military court, according to the law and with the recommendation that he be given the stiffest penalty stipulated by our penal code for the crimes perpetrated; that the tremendous harm that Ochoa's activities—on the verge of treason or within its boundaries—have inflicted on the prestige, authority, and principles of the Revolution and, particularly because of Ochoa's disloyalty, our commander in chief; declare that, in view of the outrage that Ochoa's degrading conduct has inflicted on the homeland, it is essential to strip him of his title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" and the other medals and decorations given to him, including his rank of Division General; declare in this tribunal that it is necessary and just to discharge Ochoa as a FAR member and strip him of his membership to the PCC Central Committee.

I want to express my sad concern that matters of this kind cannot be detected in time by the controls established for FAR, the Ministry of the Interior, or the PCC. This is an increasing concern of our people. Finally, I think Ochoa's followers are extremely dangerous because they are likely to carry out, with no scruples, any activity, including those against the Revolution, however base and immoral. Only by confronting this situation with dignity and being prepared to die, if necessary, can Ochoa wash away this offense against the homeland.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigidier General Samuel Rodiles Planas.

[Rodiles] Comrade President of the Military Honor Tribunal: I do not want to repeat the views my comrades have stated. I only want to state that I have carefully analyzed the conduct of Div Gen Ochoa Sanchez, which led him to thoroughly violate the principles of our socialist revolution, thus exposing our country to a catastrophic situation. He betrayed his people, the Communist Party of Cuba, our dear FAR, and our unforgettable and invincible commander in chief.

In his testimony yesterday, Ochoa recognized the enormous gravity of the violations he committed. Thus, I fully agree with the report presented to this tribunal by the FAR minister, and I propose that he be tried by a military court; that the full weight of our revolutionary law fall on him; that he be divested of his honor titles, orders, medals, and decorations; that he no longer continue as a member of our glorious FAR; and that the PCC directorate be notified that his membership in the ranks and the central committee is inadmissible. I have concluded.

[Rosales del Toro] Division General Romarico Sotomayor Garcia.

[Sotomayor] Comrade President of the Honor Tribunal: During the hearing yesterday and today, I fully realized and understood the grave errors and crimes perpetrated by Div Gen Ochoa Sanchez. Comrade president, I propose that Gen Ochoa be stripped of his rank as division general; that he be dishonorably discharged from the FAR; that he be stripped of his decoration of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba;" that his membership in the PCC be analyzed and that he be expelled from the same; and that the Honor Tribunal, once it issues its final conclusion, decree that the maximum penalty be applied for the treason and errors he perpetrated. I have concluded.

[Rosales del Toro] Division General Rogoberto Garcia Fernandez.

[Garcia Fernandez] Comrades of the Presidency, comrade members: I have nothing prepared and, at a time like this, it is extremely difficult to improvise; it is a decision that we have to carefully meditate. Nevertheless, I will try to be careful and to control my nerves—my stage fright—in front of my comrades. My opinion is the following:

I have known Ochoa for more than 30 years. We were together in the Sierra [Maestra] and we were together in different activities later on in the country. I was also Ochoa's subordinate and I admired Ochoa throughout all those years. Everyone who is here worked with Ochoa in one way or another; we shared these moments with him; we felt happy about Venezuela—when the activities began and we thought they would succeed. We were also happy in Ethiopia, when he was successful, and we were happy when he was also entrusted with highly responsible positions in our homeland—we felt proud of Ochoa. On this occasion and the day of the editorial—I could not read it because I was not in Havana Province, but I heard it on the television—I despised Ochoa. May my comrades forgive me for this word, but I despised him. I felt he had betrayed us all; I felt he had betrayed our commander in chief and the FAR minister. The day we were informed of Ochoa's activities, without knowing

about his drug trafficking activities, I also felt ashamed of being Ochoa's comrade. He betrayed us all. He betrayed Camilo. He betrayed Che.

This is a very difficult time for all of us, but we must think about it. We must look at our responsibility for having allowed him to continue the way he did until he reached this end. This is the party's responsibility too, because he was a party activist. We must analyze this as an example for us and the young officers; we must analyze this as an example for all our leaders. Let this serve as an example, and may we extract from this tragedy that is afflicting our people whatever is necessary for the Revolution to grow even stronger—even after this harsh blow to our revolution. For this reason, I ask that Ochoa.... [changes thought] I endorse all our comrades' proposals that Ochoa be dishonorably stripped of all the recognitions and honors our country had accorded him and that he be dishonorably stripped of his ranks and discharged from our FAR. I ask that this proposal be sent up to the Military Court and that the harshest and most severe penalties instituted by our country be meted out in this case. I have finished speaking.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Raul Fernandez Marrero.

[Fernandez Marrero] Comrade Chairman, comrade generals: After a profound analysis, I fully agree with the proposals that have been made in this Military Honor Tribunal, at which Gen Ochoa Sanchez's dishonest attitude and grave crimes have been proved. I feel he deserves the repudiation of our FAR combatants, our party, and the people. I propose that this Military Honor Tribunal vote to refer the case to the highest party and state echelons; to strip him of his honorary title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" and of his military rank, medals, and decorations; to discharge him from the FAR; to expel him from the party; to remit him to the Military Tribunal; and that the latter sentence him to the maximum penalty after a trial.

[Brigadier General Irving Ruiz Brito] Comrade President of the Honor Tribunal, comrade generals: When one dishonors one's homeland and betrays the principles and ethics of the Cuban Revolution, there is room for only one thing—the maximum penalties. I consider Gen Ochoa Sanchez guilty of the serious crimes of high treason, violation of the Revolution's principles, and breach of the trust of the commander in chief, the FAR minister, and our whole people. Everything has been convincingly proven during this hearing. I feel Gen Ochoa Sanchez must be sentenced to the maximum penalties provided for by our revolutionary laws and military rules. I ask that he be deprived of his title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" and other orders and decorations, that he be demoted and expelled from the FAR, that he be expelled from the party and removed from his position as member of the Central Committee, that he be expelled from the National Assembly, and that a recommendation be made to the court martial that tries him to sentence him to the maximum penalty of death by firing squad.

[Brigadier General Jose Milian Pino] Comrade President, comrade members of the Honor Tribunal: I do not wish to repeat what the comrades who have preceded us have outlined, because we fully adhere to their opinions and their ideas and proposals.

We feel we have an obligation—which we may describe as personal for ourselves and for a number of other comrades—to refer to or mention something that results from the conclusions we have reached regarding a comrade such as Comrade Ochoa. We can say without any remorse that at all times we were honest with him and gave him our full cooperation, admiration, affection, and respect.

I think we, the members of this tribunal, are being fair to him when we recommend that he be sent to the Military Court; that he be deprived of his ranks, honorary titles, decorations, and status as member of the party and the PCC Central Committee; and that the tribunal that tries him will sentence him to the severe measures demanded by this case. I have finished.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Jose Causse Perez.

[Causse] Comrade President of the Honor Tribunal, comrade generals: Just as most of the comrades have said, we loved Gen Ochoa and greatly admired his revolutionary achievements. Like our comrades before us, we have also been bitterly disillusioned by the moral, political, and ideological deterioration that led Gen Ochoa to carry out this act of treason against the Revolution. Therefore, I support the proposals that have been made and feel that he should be stripped of his honorary title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" and all his decorations and that he be ousted from the PCC and the National Assembly. I also wish to suggest that the Military Honor Tribunal impose the most severe punishment contemplated by our revolutionary laws. Comrade president, I have finished.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Hiraldo Mora Orozco.

[Mora] Comrade President, comrade generals: In the beginning when the minister addressed us, when we heard him say that he had embraced Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, many of us also felt the desire to embrace him and let him know that he was our comrade, our brother. We would have done anything to save and help him. However, throughout these proceedings, Gen Ochoa Sanchez proved to us that we are not his good friends; his good friends are crooks and thieves, those who lack morals. He was more their friend than the FAR's.

Taking into consideration that he has violated every law our country has, that every FAR rule has been broken, as a member of this tribunal I feel that Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez must receive the maximum sentence; and that he be stripped of his rank, his decorations, and the honorary title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba." I recommend to the Central Committee that he be expelled from the PCC and the National Assembly and recommend to the Military Court that will try him that capital punishment be imposed. I fully agree with Div Gen Senen Casas who said: If I were a member of the court that is going to try him, I would ask that the maximum sentence be applied, that is, that he go before the firing squad. I have finished.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Roberto Viera Estrada.

[Viera] Comrade President of the Honor Tribunal, comrades of the Honor Tribunal: We would like to be very specific. We are not going to talk about Ochoa's achievements or his faults, which have become very evident during these proceedings. All I wish to say is that if Ochoa assumed the right to betray his people, the FAR, the FAR minister, and the greatest commander in chief—not only in Cuba, but in our America—Ochoa has no right to hold military rank. Therefore, he must be discharged from the FAR.

He has no right to any rank or decoration. He has no right to live in this homeland. Ochoa, (?acting as a drug trafficker), dirtied this revolution and our victorious commander in chief. Let him wash away this big transgression with his blood, which he should shed as does a man who must do his duty. Thank you.

[Rosales del Toro] Lezcano [Brigadier General Sergio Perez Lezcano].

[Perez Lezcano] I am Brigadier General Sergio Perez Lezcano. Mr President, comrades of the tribunal, in the past 2 weeks, and particularly during these hearings, we have undergone bitter times of grief, shame, and indignation because of the serious mistakes made by Ochoa and the group of guards—mistakes presented during these hearings. The tribunal has heard evidence of treason against our homeland, the Revolution, the commander in chief, and the FAR minister. We had come to know a comrade with revolutionary principles willing to carry out any task entrusted to him by the Revolution. He had virtues as well as deficiencies and had liberal views. We are all aware of this. I saw the minister call Ochoa's attention in the usual way more than once. It never entered my mind, however, that Ochoa could be transformed as he was. I never imagined that a comrade with a background and attitude like his could mar our revolution and the Armed Forces.

Comrades, with great difficulty and before this Honor Tribunal, I propose that Ochoa be demoted. He should be stripped of his Armed Forces membership. The Council of State should strip him of his honor as "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" and other decorations. Ochoa should be presented at a military court with all the evidence so that he can be given the maximum sentence. He must be expelled from the PCC, the PCC Central Committee, and the People's Assembly.

[Rosales del Toro] Carreras [Brigadier General Enrique Carreras Rolas].

[Carreras Rolas] Comrade president of the Honor Tribunal, comrade generals: I want to express the grief I have experienced at my age—76 years old. I have had to judge one of the leaders whom all of the Air Force comrades and I greatly admired. It is regrettable that Gen Ochoa has been so weak. I think we should become stronger every day so that we will never again have to judge a comrade at an Honor Tribunal. I hope we do not have to tell others what we must tell Ochoa, for he betrayed his people, fellow soldiers, commander in chief; he betrayed our Armed Forces and our party. Ochoa, you have dirtied us. We must remove this stain. However, to remove this stain, we must be fair toward our people and ask our tribunal to recommend to the Armed Forces minister that you be stripped of the worthy star of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" that you and even I bear, a star given to us by the people and the Council of State as proposed by our leader.

I am grieved to have to go through this difficult time, comrades. I never imagined that I would have to judge a man who is a hero, a man who had achieved great prestige in the Armed Forces. However, he surrendered this prestige for the despicable profits made from drug trafficking. Despite my grief, I recommend to this tribunal that he be demoted from his rank of division general, that he be dishonorably discharged from his post as Armed Forces minister, and expelled from the PCC. He should be tried by a military court and be given the maximum sentence for having betrayed his people.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Lino Carreras Rodriguez.

[Carreras] Comrade President, comrade members of the Military Honor Tribunal: Ochoa and I have been friends for a very long time; we have been like brothers, and I had a great deal of respect for him as my superior. I always thought of Ochoa as one of the FAR's best leaders.

With deep bitterness, however, I must say that—after all that we have seen here and after listening to comrade Ochoa's statements—it is evident that Ochoa betrayed our people. It is not that I am saying this or that—it has been published in the newspaper. We must go out into the streets and hear the people's opinions.

Ochoa betrayed the commander in chief, he failed to pay attention, and he betrayed the FAR minister; he betrayed all of us by disgracing us and by disgracing the

FAR and his party. Ochoa is guilty of all the charges leveled against him, as he has admitted them, and I am deeply convinced that he should be stripped of his title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba," of all his titles and decorations, and of his rank as general; he should be dishonorably discharged from the FAR, dismissed from the Communist Party, and stripped of his membership in the Central Committee. Ochoa should be court martialed and made to respond for his disgraceful behavior with the maximum penalty. I believe anyone who makes the mistakes Ochoa has made should find relief in responding with the maximum penalty.

I also believe we should seek methods and systems to prevent a repetition of such a shameful situation in the future. That is all.

[Rosalez del Toro] Brigadier General Arnaldo Ferrer Martinez.

[Ferrer] Comrade President and comrade generals: During the verbal hearing by this Military Honor Tribunal, Gen Ochoa's guilt was proved, and he has admitted this. He clearly betrayed the commander in chief, the FAR minister, the party, our people, and the FAR. Therefore, I agree with the comrades who preceded me, that Ochoa should be stripped of the honor of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba," his rank as general, and his membership in the FAR, because he is unworthy of such a prestigious institution. He should also be stripped of his membership in the Central Committee, and from the Cuban Communist Party. He should be court martialed and punished in accordance with the seriousness of the situation.

I must underscore that this Military Honor Tribunal should also bear in mind the final attitude adopted by the comrade general, who publicly acknowledged his culpability.

[Brigadier General Gustavo Fleitas Ramirez] Comrade President, comrade officers: As the other comrades have said, I never thought.... [changes thought] Gen Ochoa, Gen Polo, and I called each other brother. I never thought Ochoa could commit actions of this magnitude. I truly regret this because the Revolution has lost a great comrade. Ochoa no longer belongs to this family. I feel that the minister's words were very fair and we, like the other comrades who also spoke before me, feel that Gen Ochoa should be stripped of his rank of general, his title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba," and his decorations. I feel he must be removed from the party's Central Committee. I also hope that when Ochoa appears before the military court, he will do one last thing for the Revolution—that he will adopt a worthy attitude and help the Revolution. Whether or not the military court imposes the maximum sentence, Ochoa is no longer alive.

When I left the hearings yesterday I was talking to some comrades and told them how I had stopped at a traffic light and the people in the cars around me kept asking me if Ochoa had gone before the firing squad, whether he had been stripped of his rank. I told them that I knew nothing about this. I was asked these questions directly.

There is widespread indignation among the people. They loved him and now they despise him. Like Gen Ochoa himself said, treachery is paid with death and death would be the best thing for Ochoa because even though he is alive, he is already dead. We ask that he courageously accept, as we are sure he will, the maximum sentence that our courts give. I have finished.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Carlos Lamas Rodriguez.

[Lamas] Comrade President of the tribunal, comrade generals members of the Honor Tribunal. I wish to express the following before this tribunal to which I have been appointed to hear the crimes committed by Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa:

I heard the report presented by the comrade FAR minister and read the GRANMA editorial and learned of Gen Ochoa's achievements. I heard and read about this soldier of the rebel army, the invading soldier who was part of Camilo's column, the rebel in Venezuela, the military chief who contributed to the creation of the Armed Forces and to its improvement, of his missions in Ethiopia and Angola. I also heard and read of the serious mistakes and crimes he committed; of his betrayal of our people, of our FAR minister, and of our commander in chief; of his disloyalty. I saw how he crumbled, demoralized, and how he dragged some of our officers into that kind of activity. I think that men like Ochoa deserve no respect from our society. However, we have said that these are difficult, painful and bitter moments.

I want to request to this Honor Tribunal that Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa be stripped of his rank, honorary title as "Hero of the Republic of Cuba," and all his orders and decorations; that he be expelled from the FAR ranks; that he be expelled from the PCC Central Committee and its ranks. I also want to request that this Honor Tribunal suggest to the military tribunal that he be given the maximum sentence for the errors he has committed.

Furthermore, Comrade President of the Honor Tribunal, I request that the FAR, PCC, and Council of State leadership be asked to continue its exemplary work so it becomes an example for our current generation and, as documented, serve for future generations that will continue to build the socialist homeland. I have fulfilled my duty, comrade.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Nestor Lopez Lopez Cuba.

[Lopez Cuba] Comrade President, comrades of the Honor Tribunal: You are well aware that I, like many others who preceded me, was Ochoa's comrade in arms and subordinate. There is no need to tell you about the

affection and prestige he earned among us, and that this was accomplished throughout 30 years of work. Nonetheless, we were aware—as other comrades have stated—of his virtues and defects.

Following these 2 days—during which we heard the minister, heard everything that was said in the Honor Tribunal we witnessed, and ascertained all the charges issued against Comrade Ochoa—we cannot but recognize the seriousness of the crime and treason he has perpetrated against the homeland.

We must recall that in almost 26 years of internationalist actions—during which the first internationalist contingent departed in October 1963 to help Algeria when that country was threatened by its Moroccan neighbors; while tens of thousands of fighters are today in Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and other corners of the world; while thousands upon thousands are doing there duty without involving their personal interests; and while hundreds of thousands [corrects himself] while thousands of comrades have given their most prized possession, their lives, for the cause of proletarian internationalism—no one, except Ochoa and a small group of comrades, thought about anything else but to honorably carry out the mission entrusted to them by the minister, our party, and our commander.

Thus, at this moment, we can only ask this Honor Tribunal to strip Ochoa of all his honorary titles as "Hero of the Republic of Cuba," his rank of general, his rank as member of the FAR, and all the rest of his decorations. He should also be turned over to a military court so, based on the crimes that have been analyzed here, he will be issued the maximum sentence established for these crimes.

Nevertheless, I want to ask the tribunal, and through it the FAR minister, that the appropriate measures be taken so all those who in one way or another handle material and financial resources in the FAR become more vigilant and demanding so the resources are used as they should be. I am also sure everyone who is here agrees with what I have to say: The generals of our glorious FAR will continue to be faithful to the homeland, in a natural manner with modesty and courage. We would rather die first than make the kind of mistakes that tarnish the dignity of the Revolution and our FAR. I have concluded.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Ladislao Baranda Columbie.

[Baranda] Comrade President of the Honor Tribunal, comrades: In the past 2 days it has been proved beyond a doubt that Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez has betrayed the fatherland. He has admitted to this; therefore, we can say that we are facing an extremely difficult and painful case. However, because of the person we are dealing with and because of the seriousness of these crimes, it is necessary to make justice exemplary. Therefore, as a member of this tribunal, I propose and suggest to the FAR minister that Gen Ochoa be stripped of his rank and receive a dishonorable discharge from the FAR; that he be stripped of his medals and decorations, including his honorary title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba;" I suggest to the Central Committee that he be expelled from the party ranks and the Central Committee, that he be stripped of his status as National Assembly deputy. I ask the military court that will try him to give him the maximum sentence for his crimes against the fatherland—that is, the death sentence. I have finished.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Leonardo Andollo Valdes.

[Andollo] Comrade President, members of the tribunal: As Gen Mesa said, I am a young general. Perhaps I am the youngest general in this tribunal. I have a reason for saying this. I was not a rebel army combatant. In addition to the revolutionary process itself and the leaders of our Revolution, an important group of military chiefs greatly influenced my revolutionary education. I must say that Div Gen Ochoa played an important role in my revolutionary education. I served under his orders in Ethiopia. His troops appreciated, admired, and respected him. Without overlooking his faults, we always respected and admired him.

When I recently heard about his arrest, I—like our comrade minister—was dismayed and puzzled. As we obtained more information about his case, after having had the honor of participating in this Military Honor Tribunal, after learning in detail of all the charges against Comrade Div Gen Ochoa, and after considering the elements of the case together, the only thing we can feel, the only thing that I feel is deep indignation for this clear demonstration of betrayal. Our people, government, Armed Forces, ministers, our commander in chief, and the young officers, who always saw Ochoa as an example worthy of emulation, have been betrayed. He even imparted a certain mysticism that is necessary in our revolutionary education. Ochoa betrayed that as well.

I am completely convinced, I do not have a single doubt that Ochoa's treason has been proved beyond a doubt. He himself admitted to his crime of treason. I therefore sincerely reiterate and recommend to this tribunal that Comrade Div Gen Ochoa be stripped of his rank, titles, decorations, and his status as FAR member. In addition, this tribunal should recommend to the PCC's high-ranking officials and the Central Committee that he be expelled from the party and its Central Committee.

He also should appear before a military court. He should be given the maximum punishment for the crimes that have been proved in this tribunal. Finally, I would like to tell Ochoa that, just as he said yesterday, he should uphold his position with dignity. It could be a significant contribution to our revolutionary process and could be an example set for future generations. I have finished.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Efigenio Ameijeiras Delgado.

[Ameijeiras] Mr President, fellow generals: It is painful for me to come here to express my opinion when our own comrade has already accused himself. Based on all the principles of the Revolution, based on the Revolution's inability to abandon a comrade, based on the fact that the Revolution tries to help all comrades as much as possible, and based on all these things, I sincerely support the views of the large majority of comrades and ask that he be submitted to a military court and punished in an exemplary manner.

Comrade Ochoa should continue to meditate on all these things. During the course of this process, he will have time to recall all the things that contributed to this dramatic situation, the first of this type we have faced. He must realize the damage he was about to inflict. He must realize how irresponsible all those comrades behaved in those dealings. He must realize how the FBI and the CIA are aware of most of the activities of the drug traffickers and drug addicts. They are people without morals and principles. None of them know how to die like a revolutionary in a prison cell even if they are tortured. We have comrades who never spoke even when tortured. However none of those individuals.... [changes thought] There was a big danger and maybe in all this process.... [changes thought] How many things the enemy must know. They may have wanted this process to go on longer so as to conduct a much more serious operation against Cuba in another area, because they would have agents here.

Comrade Ochoa must responsibly meditate about all this. He should meditate about all the elements that contributed to this. He should think about his friends who hurt him. Always, behind all this, we find buddies and disloyal friends. A good, loyal friend helps you and gives you a hand. However, disloyal friends make the most damage, because behind their alleged friendship, they are the ones who corrupt you and make you follow the wrong path.

It is simply painful to stand here and say these words. I ask the tribunal to take all my views into account as part of what my comrades have already said. I have finished.

[Brigadier General Miguel Lorente Leon] Comrade President, dear comrades, our hearts beat strongly at times like these. However, please note the firm ideals that Fidel, Raul, our working people, our children, and our fatherland have given us. We have all experienced indignation, grief, and humiliation upon learning of the incidents recited by each of the witnesses before this Military Honor Tribunal. Imagine how much firmness and confidence we felt in Fidel and Raul when we watched the cassettes that were replayed here, when we saw how our minister embraced him and asked him to have confidence in his comrade-in-arms.

Arnaldo, you strayed from your comrades-in-arms; you joined the crooks and bandits who led you down the wrong path. You treated contemptuously those of us who took part in the invasion with you, those heroes who, under your command, were led into combat at Ogaden. You abandoned us, but only yesterday you gave us a bit of confidence when we saw how you stood there before us. Yesterday I saw you as a FAR general when you honestly accepted all the charges. Arnaldo, yesterday you were honest. In the name of all your comrades who are here with us and in the name of the honesty you displayed yesterday, I ask that you act the same way before the military tribunal.

As a FAR general, I agree with the opinions given here by all my comrades-in-arms and ask with them that you be stripped of your rank of division general, of the honors you received as "Hero of the Republic of Cuba," of your decorations, and that the Central Committee expel you from the party and from the Assembly. I hope that you maintain the same attitude that you had yesterday at the Military Honor Tribunal. Comrade president, I have finished.

[Rosales del Toro] Bermudez Cutino.

[Bermudez Cutino] Comrade President, comrades generals and admirals, members of the Military Honor Tribunal: I was Ochoa's subordinate three times during my military life: When he was chief of staff of the Eastern Army, when he was chief of the Havana Army, and in a certain way, when he was at the head of our troops in Ethiopia. He led the combat actions there, following the direct and precise orders of the commander in chief, and thus defeated the aggressor enemy from Somalia, pushing him beyond the border. We had great admiration and respect for Ochoa. After learning Ochoa is no longer the man we once knew and that there are denigratory charges against him that are incompatible with the behavior of a revolutionary man, I fully share the opinion of our people that the punishment must be severe and exemplary.

Ochoa must realize how far his relationship with the filthy De la Guardia and his group would take him. I must add that I have listened to Ochoa's sincere and courageous statements before this tribunal, which is composed of his brothers-in-arms, brothers in the cause, brothers in the Revolution, and legitimate brothers, because we are all Fidel's sons. Fidel made us revolutionaries, which is today our definite reason for living. As I listened to him, I became aware that Ochoa still had something left in him of the teachings of the commander in chief and of the FAR minister.

I agreed with Div Gen Ochoa when he said treason is paid with one's life. However, comrade members of the tribunal, before that, I propose he must be stripped of the honorary title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba," his other medals and decorations, his rank of division general, and his FAR membership. He also should be expelled from the

party and its central committee and be deprived of his post as National Assembly deputy. I also propose that his case be brought before a court martial and that he be tried and sentenced to capital punishment.

Comrades, let us do everything possible so our generation of generals and the future will not have to experience such bitter moments as these. But since this has happened, let us know how to wash the stain. In the end, the Revolution will be strengthened.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Julio Fernandez Perez.

[Fernandez Perez] Comrade President of the Honor Tribunal, comrade generals, members of this tribunal: During these days, we have learned a great deal of the faults that have been committed and that have brought about the anger, bitterness, and concern of our people and all of us. The degradation of Ochoa's moral behavior and his links with narcotics trafficking are just as he described: treason to the fatherland, which can only be paid for with death.

I agree that our most severe revolutionary legal sanctions should be applied against Ochoa. Furthermore, I believe that Div Gen Ochoa must be stripped of his rank as division general, as "Hero of the Republic of Cuba," and of all the other decorations and medals he has been awarded. He should also be removed from our glorious FAR, from our illustrious party in which he was a central committee member, and from his position as National Assembly deputy. I believe that the only thing that Ochoa can do for his children and his country is to continue to admit to his serious shortcomings, as he did yesterday. I believe that the only thing we can do is to derive the most benefit from such a painful case so that incidents of this kind are not repeated by any of us in the future. I am finished.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Gustavo Chui.

[Chui] Comrade generals, I have but a few words to say before this tribunal, but I do want Gen Ochoa to know that I bear no grudge against him for what happened in Angola, because it was his duty to act as he did toward me. All communists and internationalists know that they have but two roads to follow: one is to attain victory and the other is to die trying to do so. It is true—as Brigadier General Lino Carreras has already said—when we learned in Angola that the FAR minister, who is our commander in chief, had designated Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa as mission commander, we were all very happy. We all regarded Ochoa as an excellent man, a comrade, and a charismatic, decisive officer. We all admired him and held him in high regard.

I immediately placed myself at his disposal, through the departing chief of the general staff, Brig Gen Milian, and the incoming chief, Rodiles Planas. I asked him [Ochoa] to reassign me to any type of mission, preferrably a combat mission. I therefore left my position as deputy chief of the command staff. I performed the duties he assigned me with love, perseverance, and the knowledge that our work would help him accomplish the exalted task of winning the war against imperialism and the South African enemy. I unfortunately suffered an accident and was disabled for some time. I was, however, overjoyed to hear that we had won the war in Angola and defeated the South African Army in Cuito Canavale when I was recuperating from the accident. I was also filled with pride and admiration for our Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa, who had won the war. I was also very happy because I had made my small contribution toward achieving this victory. I really felt this way and was very happy and proud to work under him.

Therefore, when I heard the 0700 national newscast and learned that Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez had been arrested for corruption and the mismanagement of public resources and other moral crimes, I was truly sad. I felt dejected because I had been willing to give up my life to help him. I was overwhelmed. I felt depressed and continue to be very sad—just as many of our comrades here have said—because the task we have to accomplish here is a very difficult one for us, because we know the merits and prestige of Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa.

I helped Gen Arnaldo Ochoa attain victory with my small contribution and I never criticized him, because it was not my duty to do so given his position as division general. He [Ochoa] will, however, recall that on 31 December 1987—after completing a mission he had assigned to me in Lobito, the 31st anniversary operation—he was kind enough to invite my wife and me to dine at his house. A group of comrades, headed by Patricio de la Guardia, arrived at the dinner party when we were there. If his memory does not fail him, he will recall that my wife told him at that time that Patricio de la Guardia's presence in his house made us uncomfortable. When he asked me about this, I said that it was not his presence but the presence of Patricio de la Guardia that displeased us.

That was actually an alert call. I am not sure whether he understood it or not. I thought he was angry, but he answered me with a smile. I thought his smile meant he had understood the message.

All these events, of which we are all aware, happened after that. We are truly puzzled, sad, and ashamed, because Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa betrayed and deceived us. The generals who are here today and the generals who, like me, were under Ochoa's command, are truly disappointed, because that is not the way Div Gen Ochoa should have repaid us. Therefore, I support the report presented by the FAR minister to this Military Honor Tribunal and the proposal to this tribunal that Ochoa be stripped of his rank of division general; be expelled from FAR, be deprived of his title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" and his decorations; be expelled from the PCC, PCC Central Committee, and the

National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]; and appear before a military tribunal, which should ask for the maximum sentence his crime entails.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Rafael Moracen.

[Moracen] Comrade President, comrade generals and admiral: When I heard the news Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez had been arrested and was being investigated, I felt sorry for Ochoa and told myself: If our commander in chief made that decision, it is because Ochoa's actions deserve it.

I have realized with surprise that Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez had become a traitor of the Revolution. We have fully proved in this tribunal Ochoa is a diamond and ivory smuggler and a dealer of all kinds of products. The worst part of all this, however, is that sometimes those activities were justified by saying they were carried out to improve the standard of living of our soldiers and officers. We all know our people, our ministers, and our commander in chief have always taken good care of FAR members, who have always had enough resources to fulfill their missions. That justification only makes the deals more shameful and condemnable.

In addition, Ochoa got too many officers involved in his deals, which is a repugnant action in the eyes of FAR. I propose that because of all the crimes Ochoa has committed, he be stripped of his rank of division general and expelled from the Armed Forces. He should also be stripped of his honorary title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba," all his decorations, medals, and distinctions. In addition, our glorious PCC must study the case and expel Ochoa from our party and from the PCC Central Committee, of course. The ANPP should also study Ochoa's status of deputy and strip him of that status. Finally, Ochoa must be judged by a military court for the crime of high treason against the fatherland and condemned to the maximum sentence. I have finished.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigidier General Jose Morfa.

[Morfa] Excuse me, Mr President. To have appeared in this court has been a truly bitter experience for us. Arnaldo knows he has been an idol for us. We always saw him as a man worthy of imitation. We do not have words to describe this incident. In view of the seriousness of his actions, which he, himself, admitted yesterday, we believe he must be submitted to a military court, which must apply the revolutionary laws that the seriousness of Ochoa's actions entail. The Council of State must strip Ochoa of his title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" and his remaining decorations. The PCC Central Committee must study Ochoa's expulsion from the party and the PCC Central Committee. Ochoa must be stripped of his rank and expelled from FAR. He must also be stripped of his status as ANPP deputy. I have concluded.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Juan Pujols Sanchez.

[Pujols] Comrade President of the Honor Tribunal: I will not repeat here what the comrades who preceded me have said about what Div Gen Ochoa has meant to each of us, especially those of us who have had the opportunity to participate in the rebel army.

In the past few days, most particularly as a member of this tribunal during this hearing, I have seen the degrading attitude—in every sense of the term—adopted by Div Gen Ochoa. He has revealed a complete lack of loyalty and a betrayal of our revolution's most sacred principles. Div Gen Ochoa has betrayed the purest feelings of our people, of his brothers of more than 30 years of struggle, of the FAR minister, and of our commander in chief.

In my position as a general and a member of this tribunal, I feel that Gen Ochoa is guilty of the five charges that have been brought against him, and I propose that he be stripped of his rank, dishonorably discharged, and deprived of the honorary title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba," and of all local and international decorations. I further propose that our party politburo review his status as a member of the Central Committee and of the PCC, that he be remanded to a court martial for summary trial, and that a recommendation of the maximum sentence of death by firing squad be made to the court. That is all.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Victor Schueg Colas.

[Schueg] Comrade President and other members of the Honor Tribunal: I believe that Gen Ochoa's personality has been clearly described by all the comrades who preceded me. It is no secret to anyone that Comrade Div Gen Ochoa has become a symbol to all of us, and to all our people, with very few exceptions. Today, after hearing all the charges and accusations leveled against Comrade Gen Ochoa—which have been irrefutably proved during the hearing—I, like the other comrades who preceded me, have not the slightest doubt of his betrayal in all areas. Therefore, I believe that people who conduct themselves in this way are incompatible with our honorable FAR, our party, our revolution, and our society as a whole. I adhere to the proposal made by all the comrades who preceded me.

Therefore, like them, I too consider and recommend that he be stripped of his rank of division general, his orders, his decorations, and his membership in our FAR; and that he be expelled from the party, the Central Committee, and from the ANPP. Likewise, I believe he should be brought before a court martial, which should recommend the most severe punishment.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Antonion Lusson Batlle.

[Lusson] Comrade President, member generals of this Honor Tribunal: First, we want to point out the recognition, the love, and the growing admiration we had for Gen Ochoa. This recognition and admiration was based on his revolutionary work, on his record, and his revolutionary behavior. With the true and detailed information that has been given to our people, to the FAR, and to its officers during these hearings, and with Ochoa fully recognizing his responsibility, it has been proven that the situation is very serious and Gen Ochoa is personally responsible for it. I believe that the merits, prestige, rank, recognition, honors, and so forth—especially for FAR members—are factors that worsen, rather than alleviate the situation.

I believe that the degradation of training, morality, and loyalty, and all the various violations that Gen Ochoa has committed make him unworthy of his title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba," of his rank, medals, orders, and decorations. He is not worthy of being a member of the FAR, of the Central Committee, or of being a militant of the party. Gen Ochoa has admitted his full responsibiltity. Gen Ochoa has brought up, and that is the way it should be, that treason is paid with one's life. There was high treason, treason at various levels, treason to the Revolution, outrages against the revolutionary honor, treason to the FAR, treason to loyalty and principles, treason to the party, treason and disloyalty to Fidel and Raul, and treason to our beloved and sincere people.

In a firm revolutionary manner based on our principles and aware that we represent the FAR and our people, this Honor Tribunal should deliberate on this manner. I hereby request permission to leave.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigidier General Carlos Lezcano Perez.

[Lezcano] Comrade President of this Honor Tribunal, comrade members of the tribunal: Allow me first to read a letter that was sent to the FAR minister by the group of Cuban military experts in Nicaragua:

To Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the FAR, Republic of Cuba:

Esteemed Minister:

It is with great indignation and repudiation that we follow the events of the Ochoa-de La Guardia case, and we want to express to the party, our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, and you, our most firm support for the measures adopted in view of the actions that constitute treason to the morals, principles, laws, and prestige of our revolution, as well as to the fighters of our glorious and heroic FAR and the MININT. We will continue to raise our revolutionary ideals and consolidate among us the principle of due criticism in the face of the slightest lack of discipline or violation of established norms.

Finally, we want to reassert our absolute trust in and support for the fairness of the most severe and exemplary measures that will be applied to all those involved in this case and especially to those who were mainly responsible for these actions. We assure you that the prestige and authority of the Cuban Revolution will once again come out strengthened from these incidents.

[Signed] Group of Cuban military experts in Nicaragua

Comrades, we recalled when, in November 1987, the minister [not further identified] met with us in this same room to tell us that Div Gen Ochoa would be the new chief of our mission in Angola. We had the privilege of working with him. We were part of the group of generals and officers who worked with Ochoa at the early stage of his mission.

Over the past few days, however, we have learned about the illegal activities he conducted—especially his drug trafficking activities—all of which have been explained in detail by the GRANMA editorial, in the statements made by the FAR minister at the beginning of this hearing, and by the witnesses involved in this case. All the charges were admitted by Div Gen Ochoa himself. All of this proves the crime of high treason he committed against our revolutionary people, our party and government, our FAR, our FAR minister, and our dear commander in chief. In addition, Div Gen Ochoa has endangered our fatherland.

For all of the above, I personally think Div Gen Ochoa Sanchez is guilty of all the charges brought against him during this Military Honor Tribunal hearing. I request this tribunal demote and expel Div Gen Ochoa from the FAR. I request this tribunal strip Ochoa of his title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" and of his decorations and medals. I request this tribunal propose to the PPC Central Committee expelling Ochoa from the party, from the Central Committee, and from the ANPP. In addition, I request that Div Gen Ochoa be judged by a military tribunal and I ask for the maximum sentence that his crime of high treason entails. I have finished.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigidier General Manuel Lastre Pacheco.

[Lastre] Excuse me, comrade president of the Military Honor Tribunal. Comrade President of the Honor Tribunal, comrade generals and admirals: I believe that, in view of the statements made by Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez himself, in view of the statements made by the witnesses who appeared before this tribunal, and the report provided by our FAR minister, the crime of high treason committed by Div Gen Ochoa against all of us, against his people, his fatherland, and his commander in chief has been fully demonstrated.

We just said that Div Gen Ochoa has betrayed us, because we had the opportunity to share experiences and fight along with him first at Sierra Maestra during the

battle commanded by Commander Camilo Cienfuegos, then during our internationalist mission in Venezuela, and finally when we were all members of the Western Army.

We knew him. We appreciated him. We thought he was a true revolutionary. To be honest, his example helped me be a firmer and more determined revolutionary.

That is why today, after learning about the shameful actions of Div Gen Ochoa, I felt hurt and filled with indignation. I believe this tribunal must propose to the FAR minister stripping Ochoa of his title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba," of all his decorations and medals, and of his rank. We ask this tribunal to request that Ochoa be expelled from FAR. Ochoa must submit to a military tribunal and that tribunal must ask the maximum sentence that a traitor of the fatherland deserves. Similarly, I believe this tribunal must propose to our party's politburo and Central Committee that Div Gen Ochoa be expelled from the PCC and its Central Committee.

Today we recall the words of our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro when Huber Matos betrayed us. Castro said and I quote: There may be men who are traitors, but there are no people who are traitors.

Comrades of this tribunal, allow me to say that we will get rid of the stain that Div Gen Ochoa's betrayal has placed on us. We can tell our people, the FAR minister, and Comrade Fidel Castro that there may be a general who is a traitor, but that the FAR generals will never betray the fatherland, our people, our minister, and our commander in chief. I have concluded.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigidier General Rolando Kindelan Bles.

[Kindelan] Comrade President of the Military Honor Tribunal, comrade generals: We have known Div Gen Ochoa Sanchez since he joined us at Sierra Maestra. We fought together. We both participated in the invasion commanded by Commander Camilo Cienfuegos.

We fully agree with the editorial published by the press and especially by GRANMA. We agree with the letter sent by the Cuban internationalist combatants who are fulfilling their mission in Angola. We agree with the letter sent by the experts who are fulfilling their mission in Nicaragua and with the letter read here by Div Gen Ramon Pardo Guerra signed by the Western Army's combatants and officers.

Today we propose, we propose [repeats himself] that Div Gen Ochoa be stripped of his rank and dishonorably discharged from the FAR. It is proposed, through the FAR minister, that Div Gen Ochoa be expelled from the PCC Politburo, the PCC Central Committee, and the PCC itself.

It is proposed that he be dismissed as a member of the National Assembly of the People's Government and that he be submitted to the military tribunal, which should in turn issue the punishment the case requires. As for Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa, we recommend he adopt the same attitude at the military tribunal he had yesterday when he admitted to his mistakes and admitted to having corrupted officers who worked with him. I have finished.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Juan de Dios Garcia Arias.

[Garcia Arias] Mr President of the Honor Tribunal, fellow members of the Honor Tribunal: I will refer to the charges filed against Div Gen Ochoa or to his record because it has been widely discussed here and I believe it is well documented in the report. The charges have been widely proved here. Therefore, I suggest that this tribunal request or propose through the proper channels that he be dishonorably discharged from the Armed Forces; that he be stripped of the title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" and other decorations; that he be expelled as member of the PCC and the Central Committee; and that he be dismissed as a deputy to the National Assembly of the People's Government. He should be submitted to a military tribunal, which should take into consideration the seriousness of the events, including Gen Ochoa's admission. He should be given the maximum punishment. I have finished.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Feliberto Olivera Moya.

[Olivera] Mr President, fellow generals and admirals: This is not easy for us because we have always worked together with Comrade Ochoa. We saw him as an outstanding son, a man of tactics, a man who fulfilled all the duties that were ordered by our commander in chief. It is not easy to look at him today as a traitor to our fatherland, our people, and our commander in chief. We ask that he be dismissed from the Armed Forces, that he be stripped of his rank, that all decorations be revoked, and that the order of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" be taken away. Our people were very pleased when our commander in chief decorated him in Santiago de Cuba. He should remember the words pronounced by our chief. He should be judged by the military tribunal; may he receive the maximum punishment, the firing squad. I have finished.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Rigoberto Sancho Valladarez.

[Sancho] Mr President of the Honor Tribunal, fellow generals and admirals: We are attending a historic process in our country. We are here to judge, in an honor tribunal, a general who was well-liked by us and by our people. This event shows that our revolution does not tremble and that it allows no one, no matter what rank, to violate the sacred principles of our revolution. Therefore, fellow generals of the Honor Tribunal, I propose:

1. To strip Ochoa of his rank as division general;
2. To revoke the title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" and other decorations given to him;
3. To expel him from the FAR;
4. To propose to the PCC Central Committee that it expel him from the committee and from the party;
5. To propose to the National Assembly that it expel him from his post as a deputy;
6. To remand Ochoa for trial by court martial and have him receive the maximum sentence: death.

Comrades of the Honor Tribunal, only by exemplary measures will we cleanse our honor and leave our people, our youths, and our future generation an example worthy of this present generation of FAR generals. Thank you very much.

[Rosales del Toro] Brigadier General Jose L. Mesa Delgado.

[Mesa] I am a young general. I was a guerrilla, but not a very active one, given the circumstances. I have always felt great affection for the older guerrillas, the invaders, and the internationalists. I must say that I felt great admiration for Comrade Gen Ochoa. When things were hot in Angola, I was sent there to be a member of the special forces. We worked hard, and I received assistance from Ochoa, based on his experience as a guerrilla, and above all, his experience in Venezuela. In other words, it is not just the generals present here who felt affection for him; so did many members of the Armed Forces. All acts of treason are based on deception. Yesterday, he himself said that treason has only one price—one's life. In view of all this, I believe that indeed I do agree with all the comrades who have said here that he should be stripped of his rank and the title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" and other decorations, and that the Central Committee should be informed so that he does not remain a member of the committee, the party, or the assembly. I agree that he should be subjected to a court martial, which should demand the maximum sentence that exists in our country.

[Rosales del Toro] Comrade members of the Honor Tribunal: Over the past 2 days, we have seen proof, even from his own testimony, of Div Gen Ochoa Sanchez' treason. As a member of this tribunal, I am not going to repeat or dwell on Ochoa's merits, or our affectionate memories of or admiration for Ochoa. At one time or another, he had all of this, in great abundance.

I am not going to speak, either, of the sorrow and shame that I have felt on seeing this disgrace. I am not going to express the great indignation I have felt during these days, in the face of this act of treason against our people, the party, our commander in chief, all of us. Therefore, I reaffirm and subscribe to the statements made by all of you, and I request that he be stripped of the honorary title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" and other awards, medals, and decorations bestowed upon him. Let him be stripped of the rank of general and be dishonorably discharged from the FAR. Let him be expelled from the party, from the Central Committee, and the National Assembly. Let him be remanded to a court martial and tried for high treason against the fatherland, and let the maximum sentence be handed down to him.

I wish to take advantage of this moment to reflect, along with you, on the fact that the case of Ochoa and his two assistants is bitter and harsh.

However, this is also an experience that has taught us a lesson and shows us that we must heighten our revolutionary alertness and firmness regarding everything that constitutes a violation of what is established in orders and regulations, and of everything that goes against the norms of moral behavior and habits of the revolutionary fighters.

This shows us that where there is something wrong, the generals of the FAR must be the example and act accordingly as communists of the fatherland of Marti, as our commander in chief has always taught us. We must remember that the only money and material means that the FAR generals need are those given to them by our people, with their hard work in organizing the defense of the fatherland.

Div Gen Ochoa Sanchez, rise. This tribunal requests that you state your opinion after having listened to all of your comrades.

[Ochoa] First, I want to tell all the members of the tribunal that I will uphold the attitude of a FAR general, to the ultimate consequences. Second, I want to tell them that I do not harbor any hard feelings over what has been said here. I agree with everything that has been said up to this moment. I believe that a just and clear evaluation of the truth has been made. As I myself said yesterday, I firmly and conscientiously believe I am guilty. If I can serve further, even as a bad example, I am at the service of the Revolution. The sentence, of course, can be execution. If this should be the case, at that moment, I do promise all of you that my last thoughts will be with Fidel and with the great revolution he has given our people. Thank you.

[Rosales del Toro] Decision of the Military Honor Tribunal:

This Military Honor Tribunal, which was constituted to learn of the grave violations in the behavior of Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, after hearing the statements by FAR Minister Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, the statements by the accused, and the statements by the witnesses, investigators, and generals who have participated, has reached the following conclusions:

Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez has commited serious violations against the honor and dignity of a superior officer of the FAR by betraying the trust bestowed on

him by the people, the Revolution, the party, and his comrades. This constitutes a most contemptible act and therefore, the most severe disciplinary and legal measures must be adopted.

It has been proved that he participated, in a direct and intentional manner, in the serious charges that involved him, independently or together with MININT officials, in international drug trafficking.

As had been stated, these violations go against Cuba's principles and international prestige and, what is even more serious, threaten our country's security. [He has perpetrated] serious moral violations, corruption, dishonest management, the illegal use and squandering of economic resources, and obsessive persistence in illegal transactions in which he involved subordinate officers, and has not accepted orders and instructions that had been given to him by the FAR minister.

Therefore, this Military Honor Tribunal, using its legal and regulatory powers, resolves:

1. To propose that the FAR minister present before the State Council:

a. A request for the honorary title of "Hero of the Republic of Cuba" to be removed from him [Div Gen Arnaldo Ochoa], as well as other titles, medals, and decorations that have been awarded to him;

b. That the minister request that the State Council president, the Government president, and the commander in chief strip Div Gen Ochoa of his rank and that he be dishonorably discharged from the FAR;

c. To place Div Gen Ochoa at the disposal of the Special Military Tribunal, as established in Article 5 of the Military Tribunal Law, to be judged for the crime of high treason and that the full weight of the law fall upon him as befits the extremely serious crimes he has committed.

2. To recommend to the political organizations and the National Assembly that, due to the seriousness of the facts, he be expelled from the party and its Central Committee, and that he be removed from his position as National Assembly deputy.

Comrade secretary, remove Gen Ochoa from the room. [pause] Rigoberto Garcia Fernandez, [name indistinct] Garcia Pelaez, Aldo Santamaria,...

[Announcer, interrupting] The generals are presently signing the tribunal's resolution.

[Rosales del Toro] ...Joaquin Quintas, Sergio Delvalle, Romarico Sotomayor, Ifiginio Amejeira, Leonardo Andollo, Ladislao Baranda, Lino Carreras, Causse Nivaldo, Enrique Carreras, Hernandez Marrero, Julio Fernandez,Ferrer Martinez, Fleitas, Juan de Dios, Kindelan Bles, Lamas Rodriguez, Lastre Pacheco, Lezcano Perez, Lopez Cuba, Lorente Leon, Lusson Batlle, Fernandez Gondin, Mesa Delgado, Iraldo Mora, Milian Pino, Morfa Gonzalez, Moracen Limonta, Perez Betancourt, Perez Lezcano, Pujols Sanchez, Guillermo Rodriguez del Pozo, Irving Ruiz, Schueg Colas, Viera Estrada, Rodiles Planas, Olivera Moya, Sancho Valladarez, Chui Beltran.

Ochoa Dishonorably Discharged From FAR

FL3006233989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2302 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Report read by Daniel Torres during "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez has been dishonorably discharged from the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] and has been deprived of his rank as Division General, according to Order No 1 issued in 1989 by Commander in Chief of the FAR Fidel Castro Ruz. This order also includes Ochoa's dismissal from active military service and his removal from the Registry of Generals and Officers.

The text explains that Ochoa's high treason of the confidence placed in him by the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], FAR, and people was taken into account when these measures were decided upon. These actions also take into account the results of Ochoa's hearing and the recommendations by the military honor tribunal which studied this case.

Also, at the suggestion of the FAR minister, the Council of State today agreed to deprive Ochoa of the honorary title of Hero of the Republic of Cuba and the Gold Star that represents this honor. This action was due to Ochoa's grave crimes against the fatherland and the violations and transgressions to which he admitted before the honor tribunal. The agreement also deprives Ochoa of three orders and nine medals which he had been awarded by the Council of State.

Just the same, the FAR minister, Army General Raul Castro Ruz, by Order 2637, deprived Ochoa Sanchez of his distinctions for service in the FAR and his certificates of accreditation.

Military Tribunal Begins Hearing Ochoa Case

FL0107112489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1016 GMT 1 Jul 89

[From "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] The expeditious trial held by the special military tribunal for 3 former FAR officials and 11 former MININT [Interior Ministry] members on charges of committing serious crimes against the fatherland, violations, and transgressions of our law began yesterday with the presentation of the prosecutor's report and statements by several of the accused.

At 2000 at the Universal Hall, the oral hearing began for case No 1 of 1989 against the accused: Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Jorge Martinez Valdes, and Antonio Rodriguez Estupinan, all ex-members of the FAR; and ex-MININT officers Antonio de La Guardia Font, Amado Padron Trujillo, Antonio Sanchez Lima, Eduardo Diaz Izquierdo, Alexis Lago Arocha, Miguel Ruiz Po, (Rosa Maria Abierno Gobin), Jose Luis Pineda Bermudez, Gabriel Prendes Gomez, Lionel Estevez Soto, and Patricio de La Guardia Font.

The Military Tribunal is presided over by Division General Ramon Espinosa Martin and Division Generals Julio Casas Regueiro and Fabian Escalante Font are acting as judges.

The hearing began with a report by the tribunal president, who read the charges against the 14 accused. The charges include serious crimes against the fatherland, abuse of authority, and trafficking of toxic drugs.

The representative of the ministry of the prosecutor [as heard], Brigade General Juan Escalona Reguera [justice minister], then presented the accusatory conclusions that prove the personal participation and responsibility of the accused in various criminal activities. The document contains, in essence, the events revealed by the GRANMA editorial published 2 June and incorporates some specific details of the most important drug-trafficking operations, as well as the dishonest, corrupt, disloyal, and treacherous conduct of those former FAR and MININT officials.

The prosecutor's report stresses that the activities of this group endangered the security of the country, attacked the prestige of the revolution, and tarnished the image of FAR and MININT officers.

During this 1st day of hearings, the prosecutor called the accused Ochoa Sanchez, Martinez Valdes, and Rodriguez Estupinan to the stand.

In his declaration, Brig Gen Juan Escalona substantially demonstrated the charges against Ochoa and how his irresponsible attitude endangered the security of our country even though the accused justified his action by saying that the dollars that could be obtained from drug trafficking would help alleviate the country's economic situation. The prosecutor, besides showing the absurdity of this idea, stressed that the plans conceived by Ochoa flagrantly violated the positions of principle that Cuba has always maintained in the fight against drugs, as well as the inhumane and criminal nature of all actions that promote or facilitate the consumption of drugs.

In the case of Martinez Valdes and Rodriguez Estupinan, the representative of the ministry of the prosecutor demonstrated Martinez Valdes' attitude of adventurism and irresponsibility because of his ties to well-known drug trafficking personalities and Rodriguez Estupinan's deterioration of revolutionary conditions for not having opportunely alerted the higher command about Ochoa's conduct and for his active participation in illegal activities.

During the hearing, the lawyers defending the accused made several statements. The trial is being held with all the procedural guarantees established by our legislation and all the accused are represented by their corresponding defense lawyers.

After hearing the testimony of the three accused, the allegations of the defense, and the statements made by the prosecutor, the president of the special military tribunal declared that the session would recess until today at 1500 [1900 GMT 1 July], at which time the second part of the oral hearing will be held with the presentation of the rest of those implicated.

The trial is being attended by members of the FAR, MININT, officials of the PCC and government, and family members of those accused, as well as the national media.

Cienfuegos Reportedly Seeking Asylum in Embassy

PA0207153989 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0027 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Report by Gilles Trequesser]

[Text] Havana, 1 Jul (REUTER)—The trial of a former Cuban general and war hero resumed today while the largest drug-trafficking and corruption scandal in Cuba seems to be dramatically spreading.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that Osmani Cienfuegos, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, sought refuge in the Venezuelan Embassy this week.

Other reports indicated that Abraham Maciques, chief of the powerful CUBANACAN [expansion unknown] corporation, which was established to promote tourism, is under house arrest.

In the trial, Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, former commander of the Cuban troops in Angola and Ethiopia, and 13 other former members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) and of the Interior Ministry are accused of drug trafficking with the Colombian Medellin Cartel, the National News Agency, AIN, reported.

A source close to the Cienfuegos family confirmed that Osmani Cienfuegos is seeking asylum; however, the source could not provide further details and did not know whether this was related to the Ochoa case.

The Venezuelan Embassy was not answering telephone calls.

If confirmed, Cienfuegos' desertion would be a heavy blow to President Fidel Castro, some diplomats commented.

Cienfuegos, vice president of the Council of Ministers with economic responsibilities, is considered to be one of the least-known men in Cuba who has great power. His younger brother, Camilo, one of the main commanders of the rebel army, died in an airplane accident in 1959.

Maciques, considered by many to be the "superminister of tourism" and called by some diplomats "the best capitalist in Cuba," is in charge of the directorate of the international conference center and the CUBALSE [Purchasing Agency for the Diplomatic Corps] state enterprise, which provides services for foreign residents and diplomats.

REUTER Reporter Expelled for 'False News'

PA0207155389 Paris AFP in Spanish 1434 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Text] Havana, 2 Jul (AFP)—During a meeting with foreign correspondents in Havana, Foreign Press Center (CPI) Chief Hector Argiles announced that REUTER correspondent to Cuba Gilles Trequesser was expelled from Havana today for disseminating "false news" and "deliberate lies."

Argiles questioned a 1 July REUTER dispatch reporting that within the framework of the drug scandal currently shaking Cuba, Osmani Cienfuegos, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, had sought refuge at the Venezuelan Embassy in Havana and that Abraham Maciques, [director of CUBALSE, Purchasing Agency for the Diplomatic Corps], president of CUBANACAN [expansion unknown], an enterprise created to develop tourism, is reportedly under arrest. Argiles denied those reports and warned foreign correspondents in Havana against this type of "speculations."

Gilles Trequesser, a Frenchman, departed Havana at 0800 today on board a Cubana de Aviacion flight to Toronto, Canada.

Trequesser had replaced Robert Powell in July 1987. The latter was also expelled from Cuba in September 1986 along with Noel Lorthiosis, the AFP correspondent to Cuba at the time.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1522 GMT on 2 July reports in a dispatch from Havana that "Western diplomatic sources have told EFE that Cienfuegos, brother of national hero Camilo Cienfuegos, accompanied Castro to a meeting the Cuban president held on 28 June with European Community ambassadors in the residence of Spanish Ambassador Antonio Serrano de Haro."]

Moscow Spokesman Cited on Angolan Situation

FL3006211989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1945 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] In Moscow today, Yuriy Gremitskikh, deputy chief of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Administration, stated that the continuous terrist actions by UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] in Angola could have dangerous consequences for the peace process in south-west Africa.

The spokesman was referring specifically to the act of sabotage which put the Angolan capital's energy supply system out of commission and caused the suspension of talks in Zaire.

He also said that the recently reached agreement at the 20-country meeting in Gbadolite is being threatened. Gremitskikh called the international community's attention to this matter so as not to let the accomplishments of so much work fail.

The UNITA's new wave of attacks extends as far as Vie Province, where they shot at a group of defenseless civilians and wounded 10 of them.

Jamaica

Security Minister Denies DEA Agent Kidnapped

FL0107163989 Bridgetown CANA in English 1600 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 1, CANA—The Jamaican Minister of National Security, K.D. Knight, has denied that any U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) operatives have been missing or have been kidnapped in the Jamaica north coast town of Oachio Rios.

Earlier this week the press reported that one agent who was on a sting operation in the resort town of Ocho Rios had been kidnapped and flown away in a light aircraft. The U.S. Embassy at that time denied any knowledge of a kidnapping.

In a statement, the national security minister said that after investigations, there was no evidence to suggest that such an incident took place and described reports to the contrary as "irresponsible". The national security minister also dismissed as "irresponsible reporting" allegations that there were was a lack of trust between local police and agents of the DEA. He said that anti-narcotics operations involving DEA agents were taking place in Jamaica with the full co-operation of the Jamaican police and with total respect for Jamaica's sovereignty.

Costa Rica

Arias Agrees To Hold Summit in Honduras 6-8 Aug

PA3006175389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1605 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] San Jose, 30 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has agreed that the Central American summit should be held in Honduras 6-8 August, because this date coincides with the 2d anniversary of the signing of Esquipulas II.

Arias said he had spoken with Honduran President Jose Azcona on possible dates for the meeting, which has been postponed three times since May. Arias said he suggested to Azcona to convene the meeting during the last week in July or "preferably" from 6 to 8 August.

Azcona said last week that the summit would be convened in early August and that he had asked Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo to tell this to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and learn Ortega's opinion.

In this meeting, to be held in Tela in northern Honduras, the presidents will consider the fulfillment of the accords reached at the previous summit, held in El Salvador in mid-February.

In this summit, the presidents agreed to draft a plan to demobilize the Nicaraguan contras stationed in Honduras. In exchange for this, Ortega promised to hold elections in February 1990, in advance of the original date, and amend the electoral and press laws.

El Salvador

Supreme Court President Attacked, Guard Killed

PA0307051389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0502 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—This evening, a group of unidentified people wounded Mauricio Gutierrez Castro, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, in an attack near San Salvador. One of his bodyguards was killed. The president of the Supreme Court of Justice, who took office on Friday, was slightly wounded in the neck.

Gutierrez Castro, a 48-year-old man, was returning to San Salvador from the beach in La Libertad when his car was shot at near the town of Zaragoza, approximately 10 km from San Salvador. Gutierrez Castro was in the car with his two sons. One of his bodyguards, whom the authorities did not identify, died on the spot. His children and the other member of his escort were not injured.

The Supreme Court of Justice president told the media that he did not know if he was the target of the attack. He said this in a declaration in which he condemned all types of violence in the country, "regardless of where it comes from."

Gutierrez Castro replaces Francisco Jose Guerrero, who completed his 5-year term.

No organization has claimed responsibility for the attack yet. The last attack with similar characteristics occurred in June; authorities attributed it to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), but the guerrilla organization denied the accusation. On that occasion, three unidentified men shot and killed 65-year-old Presidency Minister Antonio Rodriguez Porth.

International Relations Institute Head Killed

Chacon Killed 30 Jun

PA0107020289 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 2340 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Live report by Walter Hernandez from the Diagnostic Hospital in San Salvador]

[Text] We are outside the Diagnostic Hospital in San Salvador where the body of Edgar Chacon was taken. He was killed here this afternoon during an attack at the intersection of Miralvalle Avenue and San Antonio Abad Boulevard. The attack claimed the life of Edgar Chacon, president of the International Relations Institute. It took place at about 1500.

Edgar Chacon's wife, Mrs Helen Vasquez de Chacon, said that the attack was perpetrated when their vehicle came to a stop in traffic. She vigorously condemned the attack, which she blamed on Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front guerrillas.

An ambulance from the Isidro Menendez [word indistinct] Center forensics clinic has now arrived and a team of [words indistinct] is already here examining Edgar Chacon's body to officially identify him. Several members of the International Relations Institute, including Orlando de Sola, and leaders of the Crusade for Peace and Work are also here at the hospital. They also condemned the attack.

Wife Blames FMLN, CIA

PA0107232989 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Summary from Poor Reception] "Concerning [International Relations Institute President] Edgar Chacon's murder, his wife Helen Vasquez has blamed the FMLN and the CIA for this new criminal action. She also asked the military not to let this crime go unpunished. Here is her statement after confirming her husband's death as the result of an attack in northern El Salvador."

[Begin recording] [Vasquez, broadcast in progress] "...the last program in which my husband participated, so that the military, President [Alfredo] Cristiani, and the Salvadoran people will react. My husband struggled for years to prevent communism from controlling military or political organizations in El Salvador."

"We Salvadorans forget things too easily. Not too long ago, we buried Rodriguez Porth, and no one remembers. Will the same thing happen with my husband? No, the FMLN is mistaken, this will not happen with my husband. The FMLN does not realize how serious this is and the reactions his death will provoke. The FMLN is wrong if it believes that this is the end of the International Relations Institute. We will continue at the front, as we love our country, and we will not let anyone force us to leave. We will continue our struggle. I formally accuse the FMLN."

"Precisely now that President Cristiani is being pressured to conduct a dialogue, he [Chacon] was working harder than ever to open the eyes of the current government, the military, and the Salvadorans. They do not want peace, gentlemen; this is not the way to maintain peace."

[Reporter] "Aside from the FMLN, who else could be interested in his death?"

[Vasquez] "The CIA, naturally, because the CIA helps the FMLN. Even though Ambassador [William] Walker denies it, we all know that this is so. They even know the deodorant brand we use, so they probably also know how the weapons found in [name indistinct] were introduced, and how they were sent out. They called [Guillermo] Ungo [former Democratic Convergence presidential candidate and Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) president] to Washington to negotiate. [Former FMLN commander] Miguel Castellanos, who accused [Ruben] Zamora [FDR secretary general and secretary general of the Social Christian People's Movement] of being a CIA agent, was killed a week after he made that statement. Do you think his grandmother killed him? No, gentlemen."

[Reporter] "Would you accuse the CIA if the FMLN denies responsibility?"

[Vasquez] "I recommend that you read an article published in yesterday's edition of EL DIARIO DE HOY. It was written by my husband and entitled: Why the FMLN Denies It Murdered Rodriguez Porth. You only have to change that name for my husband's name."

Cristiani Blames FMLN

PA0107211489 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani has blamed FMLN guerrillas for the murder of political analyst Edgar Chacon and has stressed that despite these actions, he is undeterred from his intention to sit down and talk with the rebels in order to end the conflict.

President Cristiani said that his government would not be blackmailed by the wave of violence unleashed by the FMLN. The president said that these actions only confirm the weakness of the FMLN, which seeks power through violence.

[Begin Cristiani recording] The FMLN's powerlessness and inability to do battle using ideas rather than violence became evident again today. The FMLN has again tried to silence the voice of another Salvadoran who fought with words and thoughts. In every sense, this has been a cowardly act and it can only be described as that. It is the work of sick minds. I believe that this is what the FMLN has proven to be—a group of sick people who do not understand the clamor of a people who wish to talk rather than use violence, a people who want peace in El Salvador.

We are on the side of the Salvadoran people, and the Salvadoran people want us to do what we can to achieve peace in El Salvador. Because we wish to do what the people want, we will always have the doors open in the hope of achieving peace in our homeland. [end recording]

FMLN Blames 'Cristiani Faction'

PA0107140989 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1225 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Communique issued by Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front to the Salvadoran people on 30 June; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Regarding the death of Edgar Chacon today, 30 June, the FMLN states the following:

1. The FMLN had nothing to do with the death of Edgar Chacon.

2. Edgar Chacon, ideologist of the Orlando de Sola group, was killed as the result of a war that has been unleashed among rightist groups with the participation of CIA [Central Intelligence Agency] operatives. This assassination was a response from the Alfredo Cristiani faction, with the support of the CIA, to the killing of [late Minister of the Presidency] Rodriguez Porth, whose assassination has been attributed to the Roberto D'Aubuisson faction.

We urge the people and the media to be on the alert and not to be confused by what the people involved in the killings say.
[Signed] FMLN
30 June 1989

Cristiani on FMLN Actions, Dialogue Commission

PA0107160489 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 30 Jun 89 pp 3, 39

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani stated yesterday that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] was misinterpreting his will to hold a civilized

dialogue to achieve peace and was trying to display its strength by destroying vehicles, killing cattle, etc, but that these actions would not alter his resolve.

The president made these statements at the Presidential House after he presented checks to the representatives of the country's 262 municipal councils. The checks were paid by the National Commission for Reconstruction, CONARA, and covered by U.S. AID funds.

Answering questions from newsmen on the FMLN's terrorist actions, the president firmly stated that if they (FMLN members) believe that as a result of terrorist tactics "we will negotiate in a manner not allowed by the Constitution, they are wrong."

President Cristiani said that the Dialogue Commission would persist in its work and that the only ones who were not participating in the commission were the Democratic Convergence representatives, since Dr Mario Reni Roldan had not accepted the invitation to participate as a member.

The president said: The FMLN members are the ones who do not want to hold a dialogue, and the people know this perfectly well. Their terrorist acts are clear evidence that they only want violence and are not interested in peace. However, the Government knows how to interpret the will of the Salvadoran people, and we will not make the slightest change and will continue to uphold the position we presented to the nation on 1 June when we assumed command of the government. Even if the FMLN does not like it, and with the support of the people, we will continue to work hard to achieve peace in the country.

Cristiani also said that the FMLN uses terrorist tactics only to try to convince people that they are strong, but, he added, destroying vehicles and killing cattle, etc., only proves that they have no interest in achieving peace.

On the FMLN's rejection of the penal law reforms bill, Cristiani said that the FMLN was naturally against these reforms since it is the only group in the country that works against the legal and constitutional order. The president concluded by saying that the goal of the reforms was to provide security to honest people who desired the peace that could be attained through joint action.

FMLN Communique Rejects Dialogue Commission

PA0207014489 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2321 GMT 1 Jul 89

["Communique to the people" issued on 30 June in San Salvador by the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN)]

[Text] The first 30 days of the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government of Alfredo Cristiani have passed; we face a regime that is heightening the crisis with its dirty war. It is increasing terror and repression, and worsening the social problems with its exclusive economic policy. ARENA has begun to take land away from the people to give it to the landowners. It has made the foreign trade of coffee privately-owned; it has decreed new taxes against the people, and in doing so, caused the devaluation of the colon.

The encirclements around labor organizations and the university; the arrests and disappearances; the discovery of tortured bodies; the repression and terror unleashed in the countryside; and the staging of dirty war operations, such as the attack on U.S. nun Mary MacKey and the terrorist attack on the central marketplace, are all elements of a repressive policy. Added to this are the appointments of the attorney general and court magistrates, most of whom are linked to the death squads. Dr Hector Antonio Regalado, who is accused of being the man who shot Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, is not only free to go about the country, but is planning to run for political office. ARENA has created this picture of repression and has disregarded the agreements on the evacuation of the disabled to humanize the conflict. The cases of human rights violations after 1 June are alarming. There have been 77 people killed, 60 captured, and 10 reported missing. Facts demonstrate that the ARENA government is opposed to dialogue and peace. The antiterrorist law, or as Cristiani calls it, the penal code reforms, is a total declaration of war on all the opposition sectors, including the churches. The fact that the archdiocese of San Salvador has been deprived of its mediation role is proof of this.

We view with concern the political and military support that the U.S. administration is giving to the ARENA government. Recently it granted $6.6 million, money that is used for more dirty war and more repression. The Cristiani policy is a play on words. It speaks of peace and dialogue and reforms, but in fact it poses obstacles to the negotiated political solution to the conflict. Who can believe, then, in ARENA's dialogue proposal. Cristiani is implementing a policy of confrontation against all sectors. At the same time, he announced the formation of a dialogue commission. He selected the commission members and has appointed himself as judge and jury. The commission lacks authority and its members do not represent the government or their own parties. It is only a game for appearance's sake.

The Salvadoran people can rest assured that the FMLN will not lend itself to this game. We do not accept a dialogue commission used only to bless the state of repression nor are we going to lend ourselves to the propaganda ploys of ARENA and help it build its international image.

The FMLN has proposed creating favorable conditions for holding dialogue and we have offered specific proposals to that effect. In the same way, the FMLN views positively the contributions that are being made by the political parties, the national debate, the archdiocese of

San Salvador, and other social and economic sectors to pave the way to dialogue. This will permit reaching a political solution to the conflict.
FMLN General Command,
San Salvador, 30 June 1989

FMLN Says U.S. Aid Diverted to 'Dirty War'

PA0107181489 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 29 Jun 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] At a time when U.S. aid to the Cristiani Government is walking a tightrope, the Armed Forces of [Defense Minister General Rafael] Larios and [Colonel Rene Emilio] Ponce [chairman of the joint chiefs of staff] are facing an even bleaker outlook. The truth is, the death squad's dictatorship is facing more problems every day. Proof of this is that all funds, international aid as well as aid from the U.S. Agency for International Development [AID], are being used for or diverted to the dirty war.

For example, on 29 June, Cristiani distributed funds among 44 mayors. He distributed a little over 4.5 milion colons. This money came from the AID and is being channelled through CONARA [National Commission for Reconstruction]. Under the pretext of revitalizing the municipalities' economies, these funds are ending up in the hands of the misnamed civic action military reinforcements in various regional forces.

Besides promoting corruption and enriching the death squad mayors, this money is being used to finance terrorism and to keep the population under control. The collateral program of 1988 that Duarte publicized so much was a program of the dirty war to keep the population under control. By the way, it did not help further the guerrillas' plans in any way, because the combative resolve, organization, and awareness of the civilian population of Chalatenango grew stronger than ever in 1988.

The dictatorship is now talking about new plans to help municipalities as Duarte did. In the eastern area, it has targeted 110 million [words indistinct]. We denounce Cristiani's demagoguery and urge those in the international community who are still supporting and sending aid to this regime to reconsider their position, as the U.S. people are. The dictatorship is desperate and is spending all its funds on the war.

Regarding the fact that the AID is walking a tightrope, we will now read a brief note. The most recalcitrant voices of the U.S. Congress are beating war drums. After heated debate and controversial voting in the U.S. Congress, the most warmongering voices of the U.S. Government are saying that George Bush's dollars will continue to finance attacks against U.S. nuns, market vendors, and leaders of the people's movement. Summing up, he will continue to shamefully finance the death squads' dirty war against the Salvadoran people.

According to the assistant secretary of state [words indistinct] the Salvadoran conflict, which is 10 years old. An example of Yankee duplicity is that while the Yankees are giving dollars to death squad members, they are also calling on the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] to stop killing people, referring to our execution of top death squad leader Colonel Rivera. They are also talking about negotiating when it is they who are mainly responsible for a worsening of the conflict in the area because of their meddling in the country's internal affairs.

However, further Yankee meddling will only serve to heighten our people's awareness of the need to organize, improve combat readiness, and unite the working class to forge an independent and sovereign government.

Now that Col Ponce has returned to the country, the purge among Cristiani's soldiers and death squad members is more imminent. The order to get rid of criminal General Bustillos is accompanied by threats against other officers who are not standing on very firm ground in the Cristiani regime.

The silence of the guerrilla Larios, the clumsiness of the flat-footed Ponce, the boastful actions of AIDS-[Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome] infested Vargas [Colonel Mauricio Vargas, 3d Infantry Brigade Commander] are creating the right atmosphere to complicate matters for the death squad administration of Cristiani.

For example, a meeting chaired by death squad member Cristiani in the country's eastern area was an incredible display of ineptitude. The guerrillas who accompanied death squad member Cristiani failed to come up with a way to get themselves out of the morass they are mired in.

AIDS-infested Vargas, the eastern region's spokesman, much like Ponce, claims to be against reporting false victories. He reported that 3 guerrillas were killed and 14 rifles were seized during an operation that, according to him, began on 17 May. Col Vargas' cynical statements have already been denied by the (?eight members) of the coordinating committee of eastern workers. They reported that 25 civilians were beaten up, 30 captured, and 38 [words indistinct] as a result of AIDS-infested Vargas' military operation [words indistinct] proud of killing one peasant and wounding two others by mines that he ordered his troops to place near civilian areas in San Jose las Flores.

We call on the U.S. and Salvadoran peoples and the country's patriotic and democratic forces to continue their struggle. The Bush Administration's aid for Cristiani is still walking a tightrope. Let us, through our struggle, make it fall once and for all.

Alleged Leader Discloses Rifts Within FMLN

PA0207230789 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 29 Jun 89 pp 3, 31

[Text] Rafael Ascencio Giron, a University of El Salvador (UES) professor, has been arrested by the National Guard and has confessed to being a high-ranking political leader of the FPL [Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces] in the San Salvador Volcano area.

Ascencio Giron was arrested as a result of documents being seized by the National Guard in clashes waged last week near Ingenio El Angel, Apopa Municipality.

The university professor told the military authorities that there are major rifts and strong disagreements within the ranks of the various FMLN terrorist groups attempting to influence the extremist organization. Ascencio Giron said that these rifts and disagreements have unleashed purges within various FMLN terrorist groups and organizations.

Ascencio Giron told the military authorities that the subversives purged by the FMLN are made to appear as though they have been murdered by the Armed Forces so that front organizations will take to the streets to protest and provoke the army or security forces.

Ascencio Giron's statements on the serious situation the FMLN is experiencing suggests that all the FMLN fronts are experiencing major problems and that there is a difference between what the political leaders say and what the FMLN does.

The UES professor also revealed that there is major resentment against FMLN and ERP [People's Revolutionary Army] leaders who are attempting to influence the FMLN leadership currently headed by Joaquin Villalobos.

Military sources believe that the recent movement of rebel groups throughout the eastern area of the country was to attend meetings and hear the opinions of leaders of various subversive organizations.

The military authorities' report says that Rafael Ascencio Giron was an FPL member and was responsible for promoting and implementing the FPL's line of action.

In addition, the report states that Ascencio Giron was responsible for the area surrounding the San Salvador Volcano. One of the UES professor's main tasks was to give the subversives political and ideological training along Marxist-Leninst lines and to organize cadres for the FPL.

Reportage on Clashes Between Army, FMLN

FMLN Helicopter Damaged

PA0207000089 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2320 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] We have received a report confirming that a helicopter was damaged, as reported by our stations late on 30 June.

We have been informed from the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front that a UH-1H helicopter was damaged and taken out of commission in El Mistral, Santa Elena Jurisdiction, Usulutan Department, as a result of a successful ambush carried out by our antiaircraft forces in the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front.

Our greetings to our antiaircraft units at the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front.

9 Rebels Killed in Morazan

PA0207145389 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] A report on a counterinsurgency operation being conducted by the Armed Forces in Morazan Department states that nine guerrillas and one soldier were killed.

The report issued by the 3d Brigade says Domingo Monterrosa Battalion special units dismantled a rebel camp near Perquin, where a large amount of weapons was confiscated.

Meanwhile, peasant Jose Luis Marin died and two of his sons were seriously wounded yesterday when a mine exploded near San Jose Las Flores, Chalatenango Department.

Clandestine Radio Venceremos reported that the Army sustained four casualties when a military patrol was ambushed in Villa El Triunfo jurisdiction, Usulutan Department.

FMLN Airs 'War Bulletin'

PA3006175589 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Summary] A war bulletin, issued on 27 June by the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front, states that Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] rebels clashed with a 4th Military Detachment column in Joateca, inflicting five casualties. The "enemy" troops were supported by a helicopter gunship and a transport helicopter used to evacuate the casualties. The report adds that the FMLN's antiaircraft units fired on and damaged one of the helicopters. The helicopter was forced to abandon the combat area.

Meanwhile, the FMLN flatly denied a Coprefa [Armed Forces Press Committee] report on three FMLN casualties inflicted by the Army in the El Colorado area in

Morazan Department. The report adds that at 0700 on 28 June, Cuscatlan Battalion troops were ambushed in El Tamarindo Canton, San Luis de La Reina Jurisdiction, San Miguel Department. Two Manuel Jose Arce mines were detonated, inflicting six casualties on the army troops. Another report from the eastern front states that at 2100 on 25 June, FMLN rebels attacked an "enemy" patrol guarding the Chilanga airstrip in Morazan Department; the 4th Military Detachment suffered one casualty.

At 1230 on 27 June, another FMLN unit clashed with Lenca Battalion troops in Las Lomas, in the hamlet of Los Castillos, Yamabal Jurisdiction, Morazan Department, where two more casualties were inflicted on [Jose] Humberto Corado's troops.

FMLN Radio on June Casualties

PA0207214989 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] Following are the details of our monthly military report:

We inflicted a total of 462 casualties, including wounded and dead, on the death-squad dictatorship in June. Of those 462 casualties, we inflicted 21 significant casualties in [word indistinct], including Colonel Roberto Armando Rivera.

The casualties we inflicted also include the chief of a Bracamonte Battalion section, a captain, a pilot, a copilot, a Bracamonte Battalion company chief, two lieutenants, a sublieutenent, three sergeants, four subsergeants, three corporals, a specialist, and a machinegun expert.

We repeat, we inflicted 462 casualties, including wounded and dead, on the death-squad troops in June. Among those, we inflicted 21 significant casualties, including Col Roberto Armando Rivera and other high-ranking officers, such as the Bracamonte Battalion group chief and the Bracamonte Battalion company chief. Also, [3-second break in reception] our guerrilla fire.

Two lieutenants, 1 sublieutenant, 3 sergeants, 4 subsergeants, 3 corporals, [words indistinct], and 1 machinegun expert total 21 significant casualties on the dictatorship's active forces in June. It is important to stress that of those 462 casualties, 131 casualties are the result of (?15) successful ambushes conducted against dictatorship's troops throughout the country.

In June, we captured and released three Army soldiers. On 7 June, we captured Antonio Villatoro of Military Detachment No 3's Conchagua Battalion. On 22 June, we captured a Cayahuanca Battalion soldier of the 4th Infantry Brigade during successful clashes at La Palma, Chalatenango Department.

We also want to stress that in June, we put 11 helicopters out of commission. We downed a helicopter at Milingo Canton [7-second break in reception] in Ilobasco and Villa Victoria in heroic Cabanas Department, another in San Gerardo, one in San Antonio del Mosco, one in Ciudad [name indistinct], [words indistinct] in Santa Ana. Antiair combat also took place in western El Salvador. We put a total of 11 helicopters out of combat. We downed 1 helicopter and damaged 10.

Let us now report the number of weapons we seized from the death-squad troops. We seized 36 M-16 rifles, 1 G-3 rifle, 5 M-14 rifles, 15 carbines, 1 [word indistinct], 3 [words indistinct] rifles, for a total of 61 rifles seized from the death-squad army. We also seized 3 LAW rocket launchers, 2 M-79 grenade launchers, 13 grenades, 11 Claymore mines, 8 hand grenades, 4 PRC-77 radios with 3 extra batteries, 2 binoculars, 4 handguns including 3 38-caliber revolvers, [4-second break in reception] G-3, and 4,400 5.56-mm cartridges used for M-16 rifles.

We also seized other war materiel including 55 full sets of military equipment, 48 backpacks, 16 uniforms, 43 sets of gear for soldiers, 58 belts, and ponchos, [word indistinct], boots, and 1 tape recorder.

We will now report on the dictatorship's means of transportation we destroyed in June. In addition to the 11 helicopters that we put out of commission, we destroyed 2 military vehicles and partially destroyed 3 other military vehicles. That makes 5 military vehicles that we put of out commission in June. Also, we partially destroyed 2 armored vehicles during successful operations. We damaged 3 civil defense headquarters with explosives at El Resbaladero, El Ahogado, and in Tamanique.

New actions were carried out in the western areas and in La Libertad, where our forces successfully attacked the civilian defense posts.

We also have details on sabotage to the dictatorship's electric system and communications [passage indistinct] 25 poles, 4 towers, and 5 transformers; as well as [words indistinct], 1 microwave antenna in Chalatenango, 1 ANTEL [National Administration for Telecommunications] transmission plant in El Carrizal, and 4 ANTEL offices in the towns of San Bartolo, Ilopango, [name indistinct], Soyapango, La Libertad, Tamanique, and [name indistinct] in La Paz Department. [passage indistinct]

Honduras

Nicaraguan Army Lieutenant Requests Asylum

PA0107171589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1636 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—A source of the Honduran Armed Forces reported today that a Sandinist People's Army [EPS] lieutenant deserted and surrendered to Honduran troops on 29 June.

The defector is Lt Leonel Antonio Osejo of the Scout Company, stationed in Chinandega Department, 2d Military Region, on the border with Honduras. Osejo requested political asylum from the Honduran military authorities, who are questioning him to determine whether his desertion is part of an EPS ploy, it was reported.

Nicaragua

Government Extends Cease-Fire to 31 July

PA0107032389 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 30 Jun 89 p 5

[Communique issued by the Presidential Press and Information Directorate in Managua on 30 June]

[Text] The Presidential Press and Information Directorate informs the Nicaraguan people of the following:

Nicaragua's constitutional government has decided to unilaterally extend the cease-fire to 31 July 1989. This is meant to contribute to the creation of appropriate conditions for the demobilization, relocation, or repatriation of those Nicaraguans who have become directly or indirectly involved in armed activities and complies with the agreements signed by the Central American presidents for a firm and lasting peace in the area.

This extension is valid throughout Nicaragua, but it should not affect the general plans to guarantee the country's defense or efforts to repel criminal attacks by the mercenary forces. These forces, organized and financed by the U.S. Government, launch their attacks from bases within Honduras, staining our fatherland with blood.

So far this year, the regrettable results have been 622 dead, 278 wounded, 32 missing, 181 kidnapped, amounting to a total of 1,113 victims of the U.S. Government's terrorist policies.

Managua, 30 June 1989

Year of the 10th Anniversary

Presidential Press and Information Directorate

Ortega Denounces CIA 'Meddling' in Elections

PA3006182489 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega denounced the CIA's meddling in the upcoming electoral process. Today, The U.S. Congress approved, by a vote of 248 to 118, the CIA managing the funds that will be furnished to rightwing groups participating in the Nicaraguan elections. [passage omitted]

The president asked how many people would protest what is going on in the U.S. Congress. He said he had spoken with several congressmen who expressed no desire to prohibit CIA meddling in the electoral process. The president clearly identified the CIA agents in the country.

[Begin Ortega recording] The CIA agents are the COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] hierarchy, the most rightwing groups involved in what is now called UNO [Nicaraguan Opposition Unity]. UNO is precisely a CIA tool; it was financed by the CIA. The National Guard newspaper [LA PRENSA] is another CIA tool, and there are radio stations doing CIA work. [end recording]

In another part of his speech, President Ortega said that the tragedy the Nicaraguan people are experiencing would end if the U.S. Government lifted the economic embargo and stopped pressuring other governments that are willing to help Nicaragua.

On U.S. Financing for Parties

PA3006145289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has said that the position adopted by the international community in the face of the U.S. Administration's warmongering actions fills one with indignation. One feels indignation when one sees the complacent attitude of international opinion, which acts vigorously when it is a matter of criticizing the Nicaraguan Government, but which remains indifferent when the U.S. Administration approves more funds to support the aggression against Nicaragua. The president said this while speaking at a ceremony to honor teachers on teacher's day. We wish that a firm position would be adopted to protest the Yankee government's actions, the president said.

Concerning financial aid for the political parties participating in the elections, Ortega said:

[Begin Ortega recording] If the U.S. Government wants to participate in this election process, the United States should openly give these funds to those groups it wishes to give these funds. That would mean that if the United States gives funds to specific parties or political groups, this would have to be declared; 50 percent would go to those groups and 50 percent would go to the Supreme Electoral Council, because it does not have enough money to cover expenses. [end recording]

Parties Warned Against Accepting 'Covert Aid'

PA0107184689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] Rafael Solis, first secretary of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, has warned that the political parties that receive covert aid risk losing their legal status. The large amounts in covert aid, authorized by the U.S.

Congress for use by the Nicaraguan opposition parties, are forbidden by the Electoral Law and any party accepting it risks losing its legal status and being punished by the authorities.

[Begin Solis recording] If the party is caught, it will be punished under the law. Any party receiving covert aid is risking severe punishment and even loss of its legal status. In this country, no party may accept covert aid. That has been clearly established in the Electoral Law. It is clearly stated in the chapter on duties and rights of the political parties. They must abide by the law, and if they break the laws on donations, the Electoral Law, or other laws on this matter, they risk losing their legal status.

The other mechanism we talked about—regarding the NED [National Endowment for Democracy]—is a legal mechanism. Politically speaking, the NED represents U.S. interference, and if the political parties lend themselves to be a NED instrument and accept its aid, that is something else. Legally speaking, they could accept aid from the NED as long as they surrender 50 percent of what they receive to the Supreme Electoral Council, as established in the law. Those funds could be accepted. However, with this new resolution approved by the National Assembly, that aid is now considered illegal. Accepting that aid would merit punishment from the Nicaraguan authorities. [end recording]

Opposition Spokesman Condemns 'U.S. Meddling'

PA0107012789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] In an interview granted to this newscast, Gustavo Tablada, official spokesman of the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity, UNO, and leader of the Socialist Party of Nicaragua, vigorously condemned U.S. meddling in the Nicaraguan elections. He said U.S. meddling is demonstrated by the U.S. Congress approval of clandestine aid for the Nicaraguan opposition parties.

Political leader Tablada said that if the United States wants to help the Nicaraguan opposition parties, it must do so through the legal channels established by the Nicaraguan electoral law.

Tablada flatly rejected the idea of the U.S. Government's using the CIA to affect the Nicaraguan elections. The Socialist leader reiterated that UNO will receive aid for the 1990 elections from any country or foreign organization as long as that aid is sent through the channels established by Nicaraguan law.

Tablada also reported that last night, UNO created the commission to organize the opposition's election campaign against the ruling party in the 1990 elections. Tablada added that the commission is composed of nine representatives of the various parties that UNO comprises.

Interior Ministry Denies Links With Defector

PA0107150789 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 29 Jun 89 p 4

[Communique issued by the Interior Ministry Public and International Relations Directorate in Managua on 28 June]

[Text] The Interior Ministry, in response to the statements made on 27 June in the city of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, by Orlando Adan Solorzano Martinez to the Honduran and foreign press regarding an alleged destabilization plan against the Honduran Government, in which he involves leaders of this institution, reports to the people that:

1. Citizen Orlando Adan Solorzano Martinez was an officer in this Ministry with the rank of lieutenant until January 1987. During the years he worked at this Ministry, he was emotionally unstable and had discipline problems. He was given a medical-disability discharge.
2. According to the records at the Immigration and Alien Affairs Directorate, Martinez Solorzano never requested a permit to leave the country.
3. It is not the policy of the Interior Ministry or of the Nicaraguan Government to meddle in the internal affairs of other states, and it emphatically denies its participation in these kinds of actions.
4. It is not realistic to conclude that an individual who was discharged from this Ministry over 2 years ago would have been assigned the missions that have been reported.
5. These incidents seek to hinder the upcoming Central American presidents summit and our relations with the Honduran Government.

Issued in the city of Managua on 28 June 1989.
Interior Ministry Public and International Relations Directorate

Defense Ministry on Desertion of Lieutenant

PA0207171389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1522 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Managua, 2 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry today said that former Lieutenant Leonel Antonio Osejo, a Sandinist Army deserter, fled to Honduras yesterday to avoid being tried on charges of illegal use of his service weapon and of endangering people's lives.

According to reports from the Honduran Armed Forces, Osejo was a member of the Scout Company in Nicaragua's 2d Military Region, in northwestern Chinandega Department, and has asked the Honduran authorities for political asylum.

Defense Ministry sources cited by the Sandinist newspaper BARRICADA in Managua said that on 18 June, Osejo fired his rifle while he was drunk in Israel, Chinandega Department. He did not cause any casualties but endangered people's lives. According to military

sources, after learning of the arrest warrant against him, Osejo hid in relatives' houses and then fled to Honduras to avoid a prison sentence ranging from 6 months to 2 years. [passage omitted]

Newscast Sanctioned for 'Slanderous' Broadcast

PA0107002089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2330 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] Managua, 30 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Today, the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry publicly sanctioned a newscast operated by a local, private opposition radio station for transmitting reports on drug trafficking operations "which seek to link high-ranking officials" of the Sandinist government [to those operations].

The independent radio station today broadcast an interview—received in Managua—by former Panamanian legislator Mayin Correa with Jose Blandon, former Panamanian consul in New York. In that interview, Blandon claimed that Nicaraguan officials were involved in alleged international drug-trafficking operations carried out with Panamanians and Cubans.

Today, the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry's Media Directorate notified Radio Corporacion's "Seis en Punto" [Six O'Clock Sharp] morning newscast of the sanction. The Interior Ministry's Media Directorate described the information broadcast during this newscast as "false and slanderous."

The Interior Ministry stated that the report broadcast by Radio Corporacion in Managua "is part of a campaign to discredit and destroy the Sandinist revolution." According to the Nicaraguan Government, that type of accusation against revolutionary leaders "has been irrefutably proved false at several international forums."

In compliance with the Interior Ministry's resolution, the newscast will have to broadcast tomorrow, 1 July, the text of the public reprimand issued against it. This reprimand is the first one the government has issued since the promulgation of the new media law on 24 April.

Ortega Dedicates Retreat to 'Mothers of Heroes'

PA0107131289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1202 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega dedicated the 11th celebration of the Sandinist National Liberation Front's [FSLN] historic retreat to Masaya to the mothers of heroes and martyrs. Speaking before thousands of Managua residents, President Ortega announced the government's decision to grant ownership, through public deeds, of all homes occupied by the Nicaraguan women who have lost a child in defense of the homeland. This suggestion was made to the Executive Branch by the Luisa Amanda Espinoza Association of Nicaraguan Women, AMNLAE.

President Ortega, who led the march to Masaya, spoke shortly before the event began. After dedicating the yearly event to the heroes and martyrs, in particular to Commander Walter Ferreti, also known as Chombo, President Ortega said that the revolution continues to confront the same enemy, imperialism and its internal instruments who, far from wanting a change, want a counterrevolution.

Accompanied by FSLN National Directorate member Luis Carrion, Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado, and the main leaders who 10 years ago led the tactical retreat to Masaya, Daniel Ortega said: The enemy does not stop attacking us and has proven this with the U.S. Congress' recent approval of the CIA's covert actions. President Ortega announced that in the next few days, the government will meet with the country's coffee growers, cattle ranchers, and small and medium producers. He said that the revolution will confirm its support for these sectors; however, he reiterated the government's determination to take actions against the COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] members and Bush Government supporters. He warned that those who are still determined to destroy the revolution's economic plans will be subjected to expropriations.

Gives Homes to Mothers

PA0107133589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1206 GMT 1 Jul 89

["Text" of presidential resolution issued in Managua on 30 June; read by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra—recorded]

[Text] Whereas: The heroes and martyrs who died in the struggle against the Somozist dictatorship, (?for their) homeland, and against North American imperialism, made it possible for the revolution to triumph and for the people to achieve their goals;

The mothers of the heroes and martyrs contributed with their love and sacrifice to the achievement of those goals; the president of the Republic of Nicaragua and the Nicaraguan government, in just recognition of this fact, resolves:

1. The homes currently occupied by the mothers of heroes and martyrs are now their own. [applause]
2. If the property belongs to the state, the ownership papers will be presented to the beneficiary. [applause]
3. If the property is privately owned, a writ of possession for social reasons [declaraciones de utilidad publica por accion de interes social] will be issued in accordance with the law, and the beneficiary will receive the property deed. [applause]
4. The National Commission of Support to the Combatants will establish who the beneficiaries will be and the appropriate institutions will be responsible for the legal transfer of the property free of charge.

Managua, 30 June 1989
Year of the 10th Anniversary.

Indigenous Opposition Leaders Willing To Return
PA3006163389 Paris AFP in Spanish 0600 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] San Jose, 29 Jun (AFP)—The top leaders of the Nicaraguan indigenous opposition today said that they are willing to return to Nicaragua in the next few days. However, they protested the Sandinist government demanding that they sign a "discriminatory and racist" document before entering the country.

The Yatama [Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians and Creole Organizations] leaders had planned to return to Nicaragua on Thursday, but on Wednesday they postponed their trip, after Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge sent them a document to sign. According to Brooklyn Rivera, the conditions are "unacceptable."

During a news conference, also attended by Steadman Fagoth and other indigenous leaders, Rivera said that they will set a new date for their return to Nicaragua after they have carried out "some diplomatic efforts" in the Central American region. Rivera added that they are determined to return to Nicaragua "despite the cost." However, he warned that they will not accept discrimination.

The document sent by Borge's office, a copy of which the Yatama leaders showed to reporters, demands, among other things, that the Yatama forces in Nicaragua and abroad, be disarmed and demobilized within 30 days; that all ties with the armed struggle be broken; and that they follow the government's guidelines for accepting foreign aid or financing.

Rivera said that the organization was expecting to receive similar treatment to what was given the leaders of the Nicaraguan Resistance who returned recently to Nicaragua to join the political struggle and participate in the upcoming February elections. All they were asked was to renounce the armed struggle.

However, the indigenous leader stressed, the Sandinist government is imposing discriminatory conditions on the indigenous sector. Rivera feels that the government has acted in this manner because it fears that the indigenous communities on the Atlantic coast can freely form as a group and participate in the elections, because the opposition is not organized in that area.

According to Rivera, Yatama's goal is to carry out "a series of economic, social, and political activities" in the area in an attempt to rebuild approximately 100 communities that were destroyed by the Sandinist People's Army and prepare conditions for the return of refugees, as well as to participate in the elections.

Rivera recalled that within the framework of the Central American peace agreements, the Nicaraguan Government has committed itself to offering political openings that will allow the return of those in exile and their participation in the electoral struggle. Those are the commitments that the indigenous sector is demanding be respected.

Cuban Ambassador Reportedly Departs 'Quietly'
PA3006163189 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Jun 89 pp 1, 12

[Text] Employees at the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport informed LA PRENSA that Cuban Ambassador to Nicaragua Fernando Ravelo Renedo was taken to Cuba in a private plane last Sunday. He departed quietly amid strict security measures.

Ravelo departed the day after LA PRENSA published a report citing THE MIAMI HERALD which implicated him in drug trafficking. Ravelo has two pending trials on drug trafficking charges in the United States.

Cuban Embassy officials consulted by LA PRENSA denied Ravelo's departure. However, one of them said that "the ambassador has been instructed not to issue any statements regarding Ochoa's case," adding that "statements in that regard can only be made from Havana."

According to the Cuban Embassy official, the order banning any satements on the Ochoa case has been given to all Cuban diplomatic missions abroad.

Panama

U.S. Army Troops Reportedly 'Raid' Gamboa
PA0207142189 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] At approximately 1030 today, a U.S. Army infantry company entered Gamboa, in an area that has reverted to Panama. The U.S. Army troops used CH-47 Chinnock helicopters, 8 x 8 Pirana armored personnel carriers, 2.5-ton trucks, several jeep-type vehicles, and Hummer [HUMMV] vehicles. The operation caused panic in the community when people saw that helicopters and heavily armed soldiers had taken over Gamboa. Televisora Nacional reporters who were near the area were able to film dramatic scenes of the arrogance and intimidation by the troops from the most powerful nation in the world. Investigations of this incursion show that these actions were carried out without coordination with the Military Combined Board.

After Panamanian authorities were notified, efforts were first made to contact the U.S. member of the board, Colonel Robert Perry, who has not been located as of this time. Col Perry usually goes away and does not answer the hotline when this kind of situation occurs. Lieutenant Colonel Hassan, Perry's Panamanian counterpart at the Combined Board, went to the area to look into this new violation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. The high-ranking Panamanian officer reported that the only thing

currently under coordination with the Military Combined Board is the Gamboa playing field. He added that this entire area is under Panamanian jurisdiction.

The intimidating U.S. Army actions caused so much panic among the community that Gamboa residents did not dare to leave their homes. This new provocative action is part of the campaign the U.S. Government is conducting as part of the psychological war it has unleashed against our small nation. Gamboa residents, angry about this U.S. Army intimidation and its arrogant actions are wondering whether or not the OAS can intercede to prevent these kinds of actions, which cause nervousness among the local communities. This incursion is part of the low-intensity war, aggression, and intimidation the U.S. Government is carrying out against Panama to create chaos in our country. The occupation of Gamboa by the U.S. Army continued up until the closing of this newscast. The military raid against Gamboa, a raid that was not coordinated, forced the Panamanian military forces to take military positions, which could have led to an incident with great repercussions. These kinds of actions are happening more frequently, and increase the possibilities of an armed clash.

Delgado: U.S. Plans To Maintain Presence

PA3006205089 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Jun 89 pp A-1, B-2

[Article by James Aparicio]

[Excerpt] Major Daniel Delgado, executive director of the Panama Treaty Affairs Executive Directorate (DEPAT), charged yesterday that since 1984 the United States has shown an interest in maintaining its military presence in Panama and even renegotiating the Panama Canal Treaties.

Delgado made this statement yesterday during a debate on the new canal administrator, whose term will begin 1 January 1990. The debate was sponsored by the Labor Party and the National Casinos.

Delgado accused the United States of seeking "to discredit" the new Panamanian administrator—who will soon take charge of the canal in keeping with the provisions of the treaties—"to perpetuate its military presence in Panama, which is vital to its security."

"They want to demonstrate that we are not capable," Delgado stressed, warning that statements made by Conservative U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, General David Parker, and politician Normal Bailey, contained in the Santa Fe I and II documents, established that General Manuel Antonio Noriega should resign his position, reduce the size of the FDP [Panama Defense Forces] by one-third, and retire the high-level general staff officers.

Delgado explained that in various statements U.S. political strategists have hinted at an "internationalization" of the defense of the canal, through the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), and of maintaining the Howard and Rodman bases.

The military officer added that an expressed need "to maintain bases to discourage" its alleged enemies in the region implies "a low-key presence and a task force" in Panama, after the expiration of the treaties on 31 December 1999. [passage omitted]

Solis Palma Says Noriega 'Irreplaceable'

PA0107004589 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2344 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Statement by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, in Cocosolo, Colon Province on 30 June—recorded]

[Text] We have to regroup our forces, as you have clearly pointed out. We have to return to the people-government alliance and we have to set up the structures with which we will face the aggression and the situation we will face beginning 1 September.

It is not a question of my remaining in power. You must seek any other formula; you must seek the right person. I totally agree with the person who said: I will put my position at your disposal. That is not the problem. Who will resolve the situation; who will help? I will go to the trenches I must go to; that is totally irrelevant. I do not want the revolutionary process, which you initiated, to end. I have joined this process with my soul and heart because I think it is the solution to the Panamanian problem. [applause]

We have to organize ourselves in each corregimiento. Labor groups must organize themselves. We should be the ones who will march on 1 September, no matter who is in the Presidency. He should be a member of the process. The only figure I believe we cannot change is General Noriega. [applause] We cannot change him. We cannot change him because the Panama Defense Forces are the most firm, consolidated bastion we have. We cannot remove the leadership from that organization. He is the leader of that organization and the leader of the masses. Under those conditions, we cannot play with the leadership of Noriega. He is currently irreplaceable.

OAS Letter Says Mission Willing To Return

PA0107004789 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2330 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] In a letter to Guillermo Endara Galimany, Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance leader, OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares emphatically states that the OAS mission tasked with seeking an agreement in Panama is willing to return to this country once the parties in conflict have established a negotiation process.

His letter points out that the mission believes that the negotiation process is the key factor in finding a solution to the Panamanian crisis. Baena Soares' letter adds that the OAS mission reaffirms the urgent need to begin this process among Panamanians and would be willing, if necessary, to formalize the agreements reached by both sides as a result of the negotiations.

Commenting on the plight of political prisoners in his letter to Endara, Baena Soares says that the release of these individuals is beyond the mandate assigned to the mission by the 21st consultative meeting of foreign ministers. The letter adds, however, that the mission made formal reference to this issue during its most recent meeting with the Panamanian minister in charge of the Presidency.

ADOC Regrets OAS Decision

PA0107005189 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2357 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] The former presidential candidates of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] sent a letter to the OAS General Secretariat expressing regret over the announcement that the OAS commission is prepared to return to Panama only when the parties involved have initiated a process of negotiations, and then only to formalize agreements reached by the parties.

This drastically reduces the scope of the commission's activities and thus its effectiveness, the ADOC letter says, before calling on the OAS to fully assume its responsibilities with an urgency consonant with the severity of the repression and the crisis with which Panama is afflicted.

In closing, the ADOC letter says the OAS should not allow the Panamanian people's hopes to be thwarted or allow a repetition of the period of acute contradictions between the rhetoric of intentions and the reality of acts and omissions. To do so would irremediably compromise the OAS' standing, the declaration states. The statement is signed by Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford.

PRD Calls for Dialogue With Opposition

PA3006233289 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 30 Jun 89 pp 1, 18

[Communique of the Democratic Revolutionary Party Political Committee issued on 29 June; place not given]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] Political Committee met today, 29 June 1989, and unanimously approved the following communique on the most important issues of the current political situation:

1. The political dialogue

The PRD believes it is interpreting a national feeling when it reports that statements by the Executive Branch, Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, National Liberation Coalition, and Authentic Panamenist Party indicate that the right will and political conditions are necessary to initiate a national dialogue as soon as possible, without any conditions. Therefore, we and our people demand that a dialogue among Panamanians take place in the next few days to seek a rapprochement formula that considers all the factors that produced the current crisis and to propose solutions to this crisis.

We must always remember that the main purpose of a negotiated political solution would be to safeguard the nation's interests, to stop the foreign aggression, and to consolidate our democracy with the participation of the people.

2. Tasks to be tackled by the PRD

The PRD Political Committee believes that in addition to seeking a negotiated political solution, it is necessary to implement a contingency plan to guarantee food, health, transportation, communications, and electricity to the people. The committee supports the PRD National Executive Committee's [CEN] efforts to coordinate the implementation of this plan.

The Political Committee believes that the foreign relations front, which is headed by the Foreign Ministry, should receive more direct support from our party through the creation of a foreign relations commission composed of notable Torrijists. This commission would advise the Executive Branch and work for the implementation of a foreign policy in line with the current world situation and national interest.

3. Socialist International

After having analyzed a report presented by PRD Deputy Secretary Pedro Pereira on the Socialist International world congress in Stockholm, Sweden, the PRD states that our separation from that organization is a result of U.S. Government pressure to isolate our government and party internationally.

Therefore, the PRD states it will maintain its foreign policy strategy of seeking the solidarity of the people at all political forums and orders the PRD's CEN to strengthen the PRD's Foreign Relations Committee to heighten our foreign relations performance.

Finally, the PRD Political Committee convokes a PRD National Directorate meeting on 30 July 1989 to establish the party's final position on the issue of the negotiated political solution that the country is demanding. The committee has also appointed a commission that will be responsible for designing and implementing a program to commemorate the 8th anniversary of Commander Omar Torrijos' death.

PRD Political Committee

State Security Agents Raid PDC Headquarters

PA0107010389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0035 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] Panama City, 30 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian opposition Christian Democratic Party (PDC) has reported that state security agents raided the PDC headquarters in Panama City today and arrested PDC organizational secretary Gabriel Cedeno and two other activists.

According to what a PDC spokesman told ACAN-EFE, the state security agents arrived at the PDC headquarters without prior notice. The individuals identified themselves as state security agents, arrested the people inside the office, and took files and other papers with them. The past opposition election campaign was directed from the PDC headquarters.

Thus far, there is no official version of the PDC's report.

The Panamanian opposition asserts that over 100 people have been arrested since the day of the elections, which were annulled on 10 May after violent incidents in which several opposition leaders were beaten up when claiming their election victory.

5 PDC Members Imprisoned

PA0307004089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0002 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] Panama City, 2 Jul (AFP)—A source for the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] today reported that a police night judge has pronounced an "incommutable sentence" of 1 year in prison against five PDC members, who were detained by Panamanian state security [G-2] agents on Friday.

Ruben Arosemena, PDC legal adviser, has reported that PDC organization secretary Gabriel Cedeno and members Manuel Barrios, Cirilo Salas, Joel Lezcano, and Wilfredo Acosta were detained by the G-2 agents during a raid on an office used as a "campaign center" during the 7 May elections, which were annulled.

Arosemena said that Judge Rigoberto Gonzalez sentenced the PDC members for "disrespectful conduct against authorities" according to Law 20, which regulates Army activities and stipulates an "incommutable" prison sentence, a penalty not included in Panama's penal code.

Arosemena also said the G-2 men raided the office Friday night with a "warrant of raid but without instructions to arrest" and seized a pick-up truck, typewriters, six facsimile machines, three computers, and two radio sets.

Approximately 120 opposition members have been detained since May as the result of protests over the annulment of the elections.

Media Director Announces Closure of Newscasts

PA0107003889 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2315 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] The National Media Directorate, in Memoranda Nos 714 and 715 of 27 June 1989 addressed to Mr Enrique Montenegro [not further identified], announced that the programs "Talking With the People," [Dialogando con el Pueblo] directed by Leroy Gitson Hubbard Joseph, and "The Panamanian Voice," [La Voz de Panama] directed by Migdalia Fuentes de Pineda, broadcast by Radio Mia, Radio Guadalupe, and The Voice of Panama [as heard] have been suspended. Media director Luis Romero Villalobos said that the reason for the suspension is that these programs violate existing laws.

In addition, Romero Villalobos said that although no charges have been brought against the opposition newscasts, which are broadcast in the morning, they were misinforming the people.

[Begin recording] [Romero] The reason for the recent suspension of those programs is that they were used for misinformation, disinformation, disrespect, and other types of infractions covered in Law 255 regulating appropriate news reporting.

[Reporter] Will the Media Directorate reconsider and allow the programs to return to the air?

[Romero] Thus far, we have decided not to reconsider the measures that we have adopted.

[Reporter] What infractions did these newscasts commit to deserve closure?

[Romero] Disinformation and disrespect.

[Reporter] Was a complaint filed against them?

[Romero] No charges have been filed, but we assessed the various programs that have recently been on the air. We ourselves authorized them, but they were being disrespectful and were providing disinformation.

[Reporter] Do we agree that there is no opposition radio station on the air in the morning?

[Romero] I understand that there are independent commentary programs on the air in the morning that are neither pro-opposition nor pro-government.

[Reporter] What does the Media Directorate recommend that an opposition program do if it wishes to stay on the air in the morning?

[Romero] Well, no one has objected to the existence of opposition programs, but they should make sure that their criticisms have sound foundations and are objective. After all, no one here is untouchable [impermeable], as Torrijos used to say. All government officials are subject to criticism but not to disinformation, disrespect, insults, or slander.

[Reporter] What penalty will be applied to the newsmen who you claim committed these infractions?

[Romero] Well, as I have said, the penalty has been to suspend those programs until further notice. [end recording]

PDC Airs TV Ad Showing Election Results

PA0207003589

[Editorial Report] Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish at 0122 GMT on 1 July broadcasts a paid advertisement of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] lasting about 1 minute.

The ad opens with the following words being read as they are shown on the screen: Should someone order the sun to stop shining and the people to stop talking and not express their feelings, the sun and the people would continue in their respective ways, while the one who issued the orders would be left with just his delusions.

Next, while film clip of a child, a man jogging, a farmer planting a crop, a couple hugging, and an opposition rally is being shown, a song is played, with the follwing lyrics: If you have eyes with which to see, a path to follow, a beating heart, a desire to work, a wish to be free, and a thought to share, then tell me, dear people, who can force you to keep silent?

Then the following is shown on the screen: ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance]—463,388; COLINA [National Liberation Coalition]—184,900.

ADOC— PDC: 261,598; Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement]: 132,011; PLA [Authentic Liberal Party]: 69,779.

COLINA—PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party]: 120,564; PALA [Labor Party]: 35,264; others: 29,072.

A footnote states: These figures are based on 80.9 percent of the votes contained in genuine vote tallies in the hands of the ADOC, and in the custody of the Catholic Church.

Former ADOC candidates Ford, Arias, and Endara are then shown speaking to a crowd while an announcer reads the following: Victory is great. We have a great responsibility to build a free, fair, and democratic Panama. We must move forward, we must continue to work. We are all in this together. The advertisement ends with a PDC identification.

Government Bans Opposition Television Ad

PA0107201389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1922 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] Panama City, 1 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian Government in the past few days has adopted several measures against the opposition. These measures include the raiding of a Christian Democratic Party [PDC] office, a ban on the airing of a paid political advertisement, and the closing of three radio programs linked to opponents of the regime.

The government and Justice Ministry suspended a PDC advertisement after it appeared on television only once. The advertisement lists 7 May national election results that are contrary to results issued by the regime. These results are based on information obtained by opposition parties. According to these results, the opposition received 463,383 votes and the government's coalition 184,900. These figures represent the vote count from 80 percent of the polling tables.

The government and Justice Ministry has issued a communique stating that the Electoral Tribunal, which annulled the elections, is the only organization authorized to report election results. The communique adds: "The PDC advertisements are aimed at disinforming the people about the elections, which because of obvious irregularities were annulled."

The ban on this advertisement came shortly after Panama Defense Forces [FDP] agents broke into a PDC office that was used to coordinate election campaign activities, arrested three members of the opposition party, and seized communications and office equipment, according to PDC sources.

A PDC spokesman has said that the authorities were looking for the equipment used to print the PDC's weekly information bulletin, which, according to the source, "has a circulation of 20,000." PDC sources have said that attorneys are now trying to secure the release of the party's organization department secretary, Gabriel Cedeno, as well as that of party militants Manuel Barrios and Cirilo Salas. So far there has been no government report on this incident, which has been denounced by the PDC.

PDC Vice President Carlos Arellano has stated that this type of action demonstrates clearly the "contradictions of the regime." He added: "While on one hand they state that they are prepared to participate in a dialogue that should lead to a solution to the political crisis the country is enduring, on the other hand they raid offices and arrest political leaders."

This week the government closed three radio programs connected with the opposition for "acting against legal dispositions in effect," the government's media director, Luis Romero Villalobos, stated.

PDC President Ricardo Arias Calderon has denounced this situation and has blamed it on "intransigent sectors" of the regime, including soldiers and civilians, who want to "boycott" the dialogue promoted by the OAS to resolve the political crisis.

Paper Reports Car Crash Kills U.S. Soldiers

PA0307021189 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 2 Jul 89 pp 1, 8-A

[Text] U.S. soldiers are preparing to invade Panama. During their free time, they consume alcoholic beverages, take drugs, and "pick up" young ladies who, out of innocence or ignorance, risk getting AIDS from those arrogant members of the "Army."

Washington's fictitious war in Panama and the licentious behavior of these inexperienced and addicted soldiers has claimed two more lives. Two more U.S. mothers will receive their children in coffins while George Bush, Arthur Davis, Nicholas Brady, [Deputy Chief of Mission John] Maisto, the U.S. State Department, and the U.S. Senate celebrate, at the White House, the measures adopted against Panama amid laughter, glasses of champagne, women, and now homosexuals, headed by Dan Quayle.

Yes, two U.S. soldiers were killed at approximately 0000 on Friday when their two cars crashed in La Hortaliza, Ancon Corregimiento, only a few minutes from the Bridge of the Americas.

In the accident, a Mazda, license plates No. 8-98806, driven by Ernest Nelson Scott, a 20-year-old U.S. citizen with personal identification number 395-86-5549, crashed into a Pontiac, license plates No. 8-73569, driven by Freddy L. Tenn, also a U.S. citizen with personal identification number 431-92-7701.

Ernest Nelson Scott died at the scene of the accident while Freddy L. Tenn died at Gorgas Hospital where the U.S. authorities refused to surrender his documents to the Panamanian authorities, thus hindering investigation of the accident.

We must also mention that Yanina Agrazal, a 20-year-old Panamanian housewife who lives in San Francisco, was also injured in the accident and had to be admitted to the Social Security Hospital. Yanina, who did not think of the risk she was taking by being with people of this kind, was accompanying Ernesto Scott.

New Canal Administrator Presents Credentials

PA3006152189 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jun 89

[Text] Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque was designated to the U.S. Government by the Legislative Assembly as Panama's candidate for canal administrator. A total of 42 legislators voted in favor of Altamirano Duque and 13 abstained. The other candidates, Fernando Manfredo Jr, Cecilio Simons, Reinaldo Barria, Arnulfo Suarez, Oscar Navarro, and Arnoldo Cano did not receive any votes.

This morning, Altamirano Duque, who is also a legislator, formally presented his credentials, including two university degrees granted by the Universities of Panama and Florida. The U.S. Government will give final confirmation of the Panamanian nomination of Altamirano Duque, who is also director of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA.

Altamirano Duque thanked everyone for placing their trust in him.

[Begin recording][Altamirano Duque] They ought not to, because they have been announcing that they will respect the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, even though there are many Panamanian complaints about violations of the treaties. It would be an open violation [of the treaties] if they did not meet this requirement. They have the right to dismiss a person they have appointed. Therefore, once they have appointed someone, they may dismiss him according to the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

[Reporter] How do you feel about this decision by the Legislative Assembly in light of the country's critical situation?

[Altamirano Duque] I feel the Legislative Assembly has taken the person's capabilities into consideration. It is a fact that the nation is living through a difficult situation. However, I believe that my performance in the different government jobs I have held is the main reason the Legislative Assembly chose me.

[Reporter] Has the U.S. Government maintained its decision to prevent you from entering U.S. territory?

[Altamirano Duque] Well, they nullified my visa. However we have not requested it again. We do not know if they will issue it in the future.

[Reporter] Some groups criticize mixing politics in canal matters. What is your position on this.

[Altamirano Duque] The Panama Canal must definitely not be politicized. That would destroy the canal. I believe most people agree with this. We cannot mix politics and the canal's administration because it is a very delicate enterprise. We have to give it all our support as Panamanians so the canal can operate.

[Reporter] How can a Panamanian administrator operate when the administrative board of the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] has a U.S. majority?

[Altamirano Duque] They will have a majority on the PCC board until the year 2000. It will disappear after that. That they have a majority does not mean we cannot operate.

There must be an understanding between both groups so that the work can be performed with the cooperation of both sides. I believe that when the treaties were approved, the important thing was to go step by step. The canal's facilities were meant to be passed on to the Panamanians. Fernando Manfredo became the canal's deputy administrator and now a Panamanian administrator must be appointed so that Panamanians can learn about the canal's management. However, many people believe that the canal is the sole responsibility of the administrator or the deputy administrator. The canal is managed by many Panamanians and many foreigners, including Americans, who are experts in all areas; they are the ones who really manage the Panama Canal.

[Reporter] Are you aware that the new administrator will continue to be a federal employee and that he must respond to the interests of the United States?

[Altamirano Duque] That is very relative. He will be a federal employee. There is no doubt about that. The treaties state that. However, he does not respond soley to the interests of the United States, which should be the same as the interests of Panama, because both countries should make sure the canal is above everything else, especially when we take on that responsibility. However, the position to which I have been appointed is to defend the interests of Panama. [end recording]

Opposition Criticizes Selection

PA0107024489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2220 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Panama City, 30 Jun (ACAN - EFE)—The Panamanian opposition has stated that the selection of progovernment Legislator Tomas Altamirano Duque for the position of the first Panamanian canal administrator—a job that is to begin 1 January 1990—is a "serious irresponsibility."

An opposition communique asserted that this selection "deepens divisions among Panamanians," politicizes matters related to the interoceanic canal—which, in its opinion, should be kept "out of the internal political problem"—and endangers "the canal's complete and irreversible nationalization." [passage omitted]

The opposition stated that the law used to select Altamirano was passed "with unjustifiable haste," has serious constitutional errors, and "disregards that this position is one that fundamentally requires responsibility and stability."

The communique noted that in the 7 May elections, "our people overwhelmingly withdrew the authorization of those who presently hold power, including the present legislative majority" that selected Altamirano. Therefore, the selection of the first Panamanian canal administrator "should be the responsibility of the democratic government that must take power on 1 September." [passage omitted]

ADOC on 'Irresponsible' Choice

PA0107190689 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Jul 89 p 1

["Text" of declaration by the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance on the National Assembly selection of Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque for the position of Panama Canal Commission administrator; issued in Panama City on 30 June]

[Text] We believe that the current regime continues to act very irresponsibly regarding the Panama Canal, especially regarding the office of Panama Canal Commission administrator, as has been charged by the legislators representing our parties at the Assembly.

1. Law No 42 of 1989, "establishing the procedures to be followed for the appointment of the Panamanian administrator of the commission," which was drafted with unjustifiable haste, contains serious errors:

1.1 Article 1 states that the administrator must be appointed by the National Assembly, thus disregarding the Constitution, which states that the appointment of the new administrator is the task of the Executive Branch with the approval of the Assembly.

1.2 Article 6 states that the administrator can be removed by the Assembly should it consider it necessary; however, it does not mention the causes that could lead to the removal, thus ignoring the fact that this position is one that requires responsibility and stability.

2. The current regime's proposal of a Panama Canal Commission administrator is a contradiction. On 7 May, our people overwhelmingly withdrew the authorization of those who presently hold power, including the present legislative majority. Therefore, the appointment of the next Panama Canal Commission administrator should be the responsibility of the democratic government that must take power on 1 September, in accordance with the Constitution.

The current regime made this appointment—which should be the right of the nation, and, therefore, should be carried out with the approval of all the people—a political issue that deepens divisions among Panamanians. Instead of keeping the canal issue separate from internal political affairs, as the ADOC does, the regime politicizes these matters, thus compromising all that we feel is essential for the full and irreversible nationalization of the Panama Canal.

Panama City, 30 June 1989
Guillermo Endara Galimany
Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon
Guillermo Ford

Argentina

Alfonsin's Resignation Letter Sent to Congress

PY0107024089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2238 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Jun (TELAM) - The resignation of President Raul Alfonsin was submitted today to the national Congress to be approved by the legislative assembly, which will meet on 8 July moments before President-elect Carlos Menem is to be sworn in.

The letters containing the resignations of President Alfonsin and Vice President Victor Martinez from their posts in which they were sworn in on 10 December 1983, were delivered in two closed envelopes to the Senate Secretariat during a ceremony in which President Alfonsin was represented by Presidential General Secretary Carlos Becerra.

Martinez said that he and Alfonsin promised not to disclose the contents of the letters until the legislative assembly holds its meeting because "it would not be appropriate to do so if we remember that the resignations will be summitted to the legislators who have been called to meet for that very purpose."

Becerra delivered Alfonsin's resignation to Antonio Macris, secretary of the Senate. Becerra said that he felt "honored by the historic mission entrusted him by the president." He added that "this act closes a chapter in the consolidation of democracy."

Martinez told reporters that "it makes me sad to resign, but I am happy to know that we are doing it for the benefit of the country." Becerra said that the Radical Civic Union "will follow with great responsibility this new political process to strengthen democracy."

The resignations submitted by Martinez and Alfonsin were delivered to Congress at 1720 [2020 GMT] during a brief ceremony which was also attended by Radical Senators Edison Otero, Adolfo Gass, Antonio Berhongaray and Faustino Mazzuco.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Martinez confirmed that on 3 July Alfonsin will go to Congress at 1700 to greet Eduardo Menem, new provisional president of the Senate, and Leopoldo Moreau, outgoing president of the Chamber of Deputies.

Menem Discusses Wage Hike, Labor Issues

PY0207215689 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Jul 89 p 11

[Text] President-elect Carlos Menem yesterday announced that Saul Ubaldini would remain at the head of the General Labour Confederation (CGT) until the end of his term in December of 1990, although the alternative of filling a foreign embassy post "remains open."

Menem also disclosed that the aim of his economic team, led by Miguel Roig, was to grant a wage hike of "100 percent" immediately after taking office. "That precisely, is the salariazo (massive wage hike)," he said in reference to Roig's plans to set the minimum wage at 60 or 70 dollars.

In statements to the press after meeting the CGT directive council, Menem said Ubaldini "has decided to stay at the head of the CGT and I am very happy, very pleased that he will remain in Argentina."

Menem and Ubaldini publicly closed the chapter of the CGT leadership dispute during a meeting at a downtown hotel with 16 of the 20 CGT directive council members. Representatives of the orthodox Group of 15 (restaurant, health, textile and auto workers), who oppose Ubaldini, skipped the talks.

During the meeting, the umbrella labour grouping handed Menem a document ratifying its suport for his future administration.

The statement underlined the CGT's desire to "participate actively" in the much-vaunted social concertation and demanded a key role in decisions related to the "social pact."

For his part Menem announced that the salariazo would mean hiking the minimum wage "by practically 100 percent." He also ruled out a price and wage freeze "as long as inflation remains at current levels." Regarding the June inflation rate, expected to top 100 percent, Menem said his economic team "has no other choice but to put up with this situation."

Ubaldini met privately with Menem for about 30 minutes before joining the other CGT leaders. The president-elect appealed to them to maintain the unity of the union movement and disclosed the general outline of his government's future socio-economic policies.

The CGT document argued that the social pact "should not be restricted to setting guidelines for prices and wages, but should cover policies on investment, the industrial situation, renewable and non-renewable resources, regional economies, employment and trade mechanisms."

Other demands included the "real strengthening" of wages, full application of collective wage bargaining, normalization of social welfare funds, preservation of the Minimum Wage Council, management-union co-administration in state companies and co-drafting of labour and social security legislation.

The CGT further insisted that the brunt of the economic adjustment should not be borne by "those who have nothing and have suffered so much" and repeated the CGT's commitment to "contribute towards the success" of Menem's government.

Menem in turn voiced satisfaction over the meeting and explained that Ubaldini "has told me he wants to continue leading the CGT." He confirmed that the possibility of working as labour attache abroad "still stands" but made clear "I am very happy that our colleague Ubaldini can continue working in Argentina."

"We never intended to oust Ubaldini, since we respect his wishes" said Menem while saying the whole controversy "has been settled for a long time now."

The future president also considered that the CGT was "one of the fundamental parts of the social pact...I am pleased to see it taking on the commitment to cooperate closely to solve the problems of our country."

Menem reaffirmed tht collective wage bargaining would not be suspended because "the social pact is in itself collective wage bargaining," but explained that the talks "will be modified according to the sectors of society involved."

He made a point of stressing that "there will be no unilateral measures" since "we will speak to all sectors."

"We won't work miracles, we only offer jobs and will work so that Argentina may overcome this dramatic spell and take the place it deserves in the concert of nations."

Earlier in the day Menem met the officials who will integrate the cabinet of incoming Federal Capital mayor Carlos Grosso.

In that opportunity Menem warned "those who say that the essence of Peronism is being disregarded are completely wrong."

"We are only following the clear message of General (Juan Domingo) Peron when he said the country will be saved by all of us together or by nobody," he added.

Menem Clarifies Role of Sach as Economic Adviser

PY3006116589 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1350 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Jun (DYN)—President-elect Carlos Menem said that Jeffrey Sachs' appointment as adviser to his economic team "was not imposed" by Argentina's international creditors. He added: "We will take what we need from his proposals, and we will dismiss those we do not need."

Menem stated that his government "will strictly implement" the anti-inflationary economic program prepared by Economy Minister-designate Miguel Roig.

Menem made brief remarks this morning before entering the Alvear Palace Hotel to meet with Buenos Aires Mayor-elect Carlos Grosso and with members of Grosso's team.

Menem did not make it clear whether there will a price freeze during the first stage of his economic plan. In reply to a question, he said that "there will be a large utility rate increase, but there will also be a salary increase."

Asked about Domestic Trade Secretary-designate Alberto Albamonte's remark that he will resign if a price freeze is established, Menem said: "It is the economy minister who will formulate the economic guidelines and policies. Thus, that question must be addressed to him."

Menem added: "We have a plan and a program, which he will strictly implement." He said Sachs will not introduce changes that would not be beneficial to the country into the plan.

Executive Proposes Armed Forces Modernization

PY0107204489 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2212 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Jun (NA)—The national Executive Branch has submitted to the National Congress a bill proposing the equipment and modernization of the armed and security forces, with an investment estimated at almost 170 billion australes at May 1989 prices.

According to a message attached to the document, the bill seeks to maintain the armed and security forces' capacity to deter potential adversaries.

It also seeks the modernization of the Armed Forces in a "consistent and all-embracing manner so as to increase their fire power and mobilization capability, and to maintain a first-level posture in all specific technologies necessary for military power."

This investment is scheduled for a period between the remainder of 1988 and 1993. Estimated at March 1989 prices, the investment is as follows: for the Army, a total of 44 billion australes; for the Navy, 29 billion australes; for the Air Force, 73 billion australes; for the border police, 11 billion australes; and for the Naval Prefecture, 9 billion australes.

The document states in its whereas clauses that the current government has seen the need "to expand and modernize the armed and security forces in an effort to make them more effective."

It adds that "the various alternatives offered by the strategic military planning, must be prioritized as well as the results of the use of resources established in the budget for the Ministry of Defense."

The bill adds that "a clear example of this is the fact that investments made so far have had no planning whatsoever."

The government adds that it also faces the need "to systematize the additional investment calculations and the subsequent operation costs by making decisions on the most important investments."

To this is added the need to "make those responsible for the operations of the forces aware of the total cost of the equipment they are handling. This information is not available from budget accounting."

Thus, it also stresses the need to "extend beyond the fiscal year the commitment to invest in defense to follow up activities being developed in the medium and long term."

The document adds that with the implementation of the system of planning, programming, and budgeting, the government has managed "to provide to the armed and security forces an effective instrument that will facilitate the fulfillment and control of their own objectives."

It is noted in that regard that the bill makes it possible "to clearly identify the operational capability of the Armed Forces," and "the various alternative levels to meet the defense objectives" as well as "the parameters to measure expenditure effectiveness" and "the participation of operational programs, specific and general support, investment projects, research and development, and war programs in the overall expenditure structure."

Further it contends that "as the analysis capability this system offers is acquired" and "as decision-making is based on the Armed Forces operational concept, a law on equipment like the one proposed will prevent the purchase of materiel for its own sake, and will make possible [llegar a la concrecion] our medium-and long-term strategic planning."

It says that to attain "the objectives set forth, it is necessary to separate the resources assigned for the normal operation of the Armed Forces and security forces, and it is also necessary to know the amount of such resources."

It adds that "this will make it possible to adequately schedule the acquisition of equipment and to revise the maintenance and/or deactivation of systems in current use, thereby ensuring considerable savings in the acquisition of spare parts, labor, etc."

The bill stresses that "it will be the Defense Ministry's responsibility to evaluate and make the final decision on requests submitted by the Armed Forces so as to determine which requests can better contribute to the operational capability necessary to meet national defense objectives."

Army Denies Alleged Agreement With Seineldin

PY0107230589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2220 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Jul (TELAM)—Today the Army General Staff released a communique denying an article published in a morning daily about an alleged meeting and agreement between Brigadier General Isidro Bonifacio Caceres and Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin to find a solution to the military problem.

The communique says:

"As a result of an article by Luis Garasino published in CLARIN today indicating that the position of Army chief of staff was reportedly offered to Brig Gen Isidro Bonifacio Caceres and that he was connected to an alledged agreement with Col Mohamed Ali Seineldin to find a solution to the military problem after a meeting reportedly held on 28 June at the site where Seineldin is being held, the Army General Staff reports:

"1. Gen Isidro Caceres is supervising military exercises of the 2d Armored Cavalry Brigade in Entre Rios, and he has informed the Army chief of staff that the newspaper information is absolutely false. He also requested that the article be publicly and categorically denied.

"2. The Army General Staff would like to convey to the people once again that such information is harmful to the seriousness with which these institutional issues should be dealt and makes no contribution to maintaining the environment of order and tranquillity which is required under the current circumstances."

Violent Looting Occurs in Rosario Market

PY0207024389 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0114 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Text] Rosario, 1 Jul (DYN)—Today approximately 30 people looted and destroyed a market in southern Rosario in an event characterized by the looter's use of violence.

The looting occurred this afternoon at about 1800 in a small market at 1900 Estrella Federal Street. The shop was closed, and an employee was on guard.

Witnesses reported that the looters threatened the employee and ordered him to open the doors.

The employee allowed the looters inside the market and asked them not to hurt him and not to destroy anything.

However, not only did the looters steal all kinds of food products, they also stole a television set, a recorder, and a scale.

Furthermore they smashed windows and stands with great violence.

This is the first looting since the wave of lootings and attacks that shook this city late in May causing the government to declare a state of siege. There was an attempt to loot a business yesterday but the police prevented it.

Bolivia

Interior Minister Identifies Mormon Killers

PY3006194189 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Relay by Roberto Lascano from Government House]

[Text] Interior Minister Eduardo Perez Beltran tonight reported that (Gabino Rojas), (Irma Salazar), and (Constantino Yubra), who have been arrested, told police that the (Encina Laguna) brothers are responsible for the murder of the two Mormon missionaries, and for the attacks on Congress and against former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Perez Beltran said that the investigation uncovered that the Zarate Willca group is [words indistinct] Marxist [words indistinct]. He added that the investigation continues and that the leaders of the group, (Horacio) and [name indistinct] will be arrested. The minister made these comments to the media in government palace. [recorded passage indistinct]

Perez Beltran said that in the next few hours the police will arrest both (Felix) and (Nestor Encina Laguna), who are responsible for the murder of the two Mormon missionaries and the attack against the national Congress. He added that efforts are being made to arrest the head of the group named (Horacio) [words indistinct] important member of the of the Zarate Willca group.

Perez Beltran said that in the next few hours his ministry will give details of this case and of the subversives who make up the Zarate Willca group.

Police Disturbed by Disclosures

PY0107130089 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] It has been learned from National Police sources that disclosures by the information and interior ministers have completely disrupted the investigation of the murder of the Mormons.

Police officials charged with investigating the case believe the untimely disclosure of names and details of the case will make it difficult for the police to arrest the main suspects, who must have already gone into hiding. The sources said police officials regard the disclosures as untimely, because the questioning of suspects and other people involved in the murder was still under way. They said, quote, not even Mandrake the Magician could capture the true murderers now, unquote.

Extremists Threaten Perez Beltran

PY0107233689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2222 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] La Paz, 1 Jul (EFE)—It was reported today that the extremist group Zarate Willca Armed Forces of Liberation [Zarate Willca Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion] has threatened the life of Interior Minister Eduardo Perez Beltran. The threat was made after the people allegedly responsible for the murder of two Mormon missionaries were arrested.

The Interior Ministry announced 2 days ago that the brothers Felix and Nestor Encinas Laguna were arrested during a police operation.

The Zarate Willca Armed Forces of Liberation have claimed responsibility for the murder of two U.S. Mormon missionaries, Jeffrey Brent Ball and Ray Todd Wilson, who were shot to death on 24 May. According to Perez Beltran, this extremist group combines Indian beliefs with Marxist ideology.

In August 1988 this organization carried out a dynamite attack against the motorcade of Secretary of State George Shultz during his visit to La Paz.

In December 1988 this group carried out another dynamite attack against the Bolivian Congress. Perez Beltran told EFE today [words indistinct]

COB Criticizes Arrest of University Students

PY3006195889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0411 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] La Paz, 29 Jun (EFE)—Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB) representatives reported today that three students have been charged with the killing of two U.S. Mormon missionaries. The killings occurred in La Paz on 24 May.

The killing of the two U.S. missionaries was claimed by the self-styled "Zarate Willca Armed Forces Liberation" group. This is the same group that claimed responsibility for the attack on George Shultz when he visited La Paz in August 1988 in his capacity as U.S. secretary of state.

In the last few days, Bolivian authorities have arrested dozens of university students. Their relatives and COB officials have criticized these arrests, which they claim "are an illegal and arbitrary action."

The COB leaders have reported that those arrested have been identified as Constantino Yujra, a sociology student; Telma Salazar, a nursing student; and Alberto Mendoza, a student at the Warisata rural school.

Moreover, the social science school of the San Andres University has declared itself in a "state of emergency" until the students are released. The school has also called a protest meeting for 30 June.

Mormon missionaries Jeffrey Brent Ball and Ray Todd Wilson were the missionaries killed. The U.S. Government has offered a $500,000 reward to anyone who helps with the capture of those responsible for their killings.

Government: Some Areas Controlled by Traffickers

PY0207232089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0210 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Text] La Paz, 1 Jul (EFE)—The Bolivian Government admitted today that there are areas in the country which are controlled by drug traffickers, areas where antidrug squads cannot enter and where this illegal activity is increasing.

According to information published by the La Paz daily ULTIMA HORA and attributed to a high-ranking Defense Ministry official, there are "red zones" in Chapare, Cochabamba Department, 430 km from La Paz. The antidrug squads' access to these zones is virtually impossible.

According to the daily, the sources noted that the presence of special forces for the struggle against drug trafficking in the "free or red" zones is insufficient in view of the "trafficking rings' strong influence."

The source added that "many people linked to drug trafficking identify themselves as benefactors of the peasant communities that cultivate coca leaves, thereby getting the people to help them conceal their illegal activities."

The report goes on to point out that "drug trafficking has become a factor of the economic and social structure and is no longer exclusively a police problem."

The official added that "in order to break this chain of drug traffickers, it is necessary to control the flight of small planes, watch or destroy clandestine landing strips, and improve control over the Bolivian air space.

UMOPAR Injures Peasant Leader in Clashes

PY3006134089 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2330 GMT 29 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Diego Morales, leader of Cochabamba's Peasant Federation, has been seriously injured and is in a coma. He is being treated at a Chimore hospital. UMOPAR [Mobile Units for Rural Areas] agents fired machineguns at the area from helicopters to scare the local population after coca producers blocked the road to stop an UMOPAR vehicle carrying the peasant leader, rescued him, and set the vehicle on fire.

Hugo Zalazar from the Single Trade Union Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers said that UMOPAR agents protect drug traffickers. The Confederation will convene a national emergency meeting to protect coca growers from violent UMOPAR raids. [passage omitted]

The Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB] condemned the raids and denied that peasants had ambushed the UMOPAR patrol. COB leader Alejandro Guzman reports:

[Begin Guzman recording] I must say that the report of an alleged ambush is completely false. Peasants have not captured UMOPAR or DEA hostages. There was, however, a violent attack against companero Diego Morales on his land, in front of other coca growers. [end recording] [passage omitted]

UMOPAR forces have also arrested 30 peasants in Puerto San Francisco, Chapare, after a police patrol was forced to release 2 drug traffickers and had to flee from a crowd of nearly 1,000 peasants.

Social Defense Under Secretary Genaro Marquez said the incident occurred after a nine-man UMOPAR patrol captured two drug traffickers. The peasants intercepted the vehicle in which the two drug traffickers were being taken to Chimore. The police agents had to release the drug traffickers after the peasants threatened to shoot them.

The crowd continued to threaten the patrol, forcing the UMOPAR agents to flee into the woods. The peasants—some 400 strong—burned the UMOPAR pickup and chased the police into the woods.

Under Secretary Genaro Marquez explaints:

[Begin Marquez recording] Yesterday, UMOPAR raided some areas during the morning and clashed with a large group of peasants in Puerto San Francisco, who attacked the patrol after learning what happened to Diego Morales. The agents had to release two drug traffickers they were bringing with them. They were able to flee the area after some difficulties but will continue investigating. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Marquez said the 30 arrested peasants will be questioned to determine their responsibility in the incident and those who are innocent will be released. Marquez also said police seized arms and sticks of dynamite.

Brazil

Minimum Foreign Reserves Reportedly $6 Billion

PY3006145489 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Jun 89 p 3

[Excerpt] Brasilia—The government has set the minimum level of foreign reserves at $6 billion. At that point, payments to creditor banks will cease, and they will be informed of the moratorium through a formal communique from Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega to the Creditor Banks Committee. That decision, personally made by President Jose Sarney, indicates that delays in payments might begin before September, when $3 billion will come due.

Should the situation come to a point where a moratorium becomes necessary, Brazil will invoke, as an argument for delaying payments, the IMF statute that provides for such a suspension should a country need to protect its own foreign reserves. This suspension will in fact be unavoidable if Brazil does not reach an agreement with the IMF.

After a National Monetary Council (DMN) meeting yesterday, Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega reaffirmed that the country will indeed interrupt interest payments "to secure an adequate level of foreign reserves." He preferred not to say, however, what that level would be and he did not want to comment on the assumption that an agreement with the IMF has not been reached. "We are working on an agreement," Mailson da Nobrega said. [passage omitted]

Economic Growth Slows in Past 12 Months

PY0107184289 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Jun 89 p 16

[Summary] The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) has reported that the country's GDP has experienced a contraction of 0.71 percent in the 12-month period ending in March 1989 as compared to the 12-month period immediately preceding it. Should this rate of decline continue for the rest of the year, the annual GDP will be $2 billion less than last year.

Chile

Communist Teitelboim Denies Pact With Aylwin

PY0107144889 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Relay by Jorge Pina from Rome]

[Text] Volodia Teitelboim, general secretary of the Chilean Communist Party [PCCh], today confirmed to Radio Cooperativa the comments made by Patricio Aylwin that there is no pact for communist support for Aylwin's presidential candidacy.

Aylwin's comments were published by several Italian dailies, including L'UNITA the Italian Communist Party newspaper, which in a headline said, quote: the candidate of the Christian Democratic Party, Patricio Aylwin, said that there is no agreement with the PCCh, unquote. Teitelboim told this correspondent, quote: Patricio Aylwin is right. There is no pact between our parties, but we will vote for the single candidate because the important thing is to free our country from fascism and that can only be done through the unity of the opposition forces, unquote.

Teitelboim added that he agrees with Aylwin's comments about the Interior Ministry decision to exclude the Communists, such as Clodomiro Almeyda, from the upcoming elections. He said that Aylwin is right in demanding an end to ideological discrimination among Chileans—an end to the efforts to divide people into groups. He added that the majority of Chileans reject ideological discrimination.

Teitelboim indicated that the government decision to prohibit Communist candidates in the upcoming elections clearly confirms that the constitutional reform proposal is a farce.

Regarding the decision [not further identified] to be made by the PCCh, Teitelboim said that it is under study by the party leadership. He recalled, however, quote: Our policy is to disobey the antidemocratic measures of the regime, whose legitimacy is questioned by the entire country, unquote.

34 Detained in March Supporting Human Rights

PY0107035989 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] As a result of the incidents that occurred at Constitucion Square at 1200 today, 30 people are being held at the First Police Station, and 4 were placed at the disposal of the Military Courts on charges of disrespecting Carabineros. The incidents occurred when Carabineros broke up the second march for human rights in Chile. The march began in Valparaiso and other northern and southern towns on 26 June. This morning, marchers gathered at Independencia Avenue in the northern part of Santiango, and at Gran Avenida in the southern part of town to suport the relatives of human rights victims. The marches were going to march to downtown Santiago, specifically to La Moneda Palace, and hand General Pinochet a letter requesting the release of political prisoners and an impartial investigation of their charges and, if necessary, that their cases be reviewed so that they can be tried by independent courts. They intended to submit to Pinochet this request by the national coordinator for human rights. However, they were violently repressed by Carabineros, who detained 34 of them. The other demonstrators went to the Chilean Human Rights Headquarters. There the Human Rights Commission lawyer Jaime Castillo Velasco told them that the commission would render them the necessary judicial help. [passage omitted]

Socialist Party Holds Congress, Discusses Goals

PY0107035089 Santiago Radio Cooperative Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Jun 89

[By Juan Bertolo from San Antonio]

[Text] With some 50 Chilean Socialist Party (PS) leaders who have come from various parts of the country, the PS is holding its 25th congress. Ricardo Nunes will be replaced by Jorge Arrate as PS secretary general.

The document calling for the 25th congress states: We Socialists, have expressed our readiness to take part in the upcoming transition government, to support the

democratic program of changes aimed at fully restoring the power of the people, to support truth, justice, and compensations for human rights violations as a way to pay the immense social debt accumulated during these years in which the people have been exploited. We are ready to help put Chile back in the bosom of the international community and to integrate it with other Latin American countries.

Former PS Secretary General Ricardo Nunes, who received a standing ovation from those attending the Congress, yesterday rendered accounts on his administration. [recorded passage indistinct]

The document calling for the congress adds: We Socialists propose and support an integral and homogenous democracy that can be always improved and perfected. We support a democracy that truly organizes the society and the government, a democracy where social, political, and cultural diversity are accepted as a value that leads to participation, pluralism, and a firm denial of authoritarianism, social fragmentation, and the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few.

The 25th Socialist Congress will end tomorrow, after all participants reach an agreement on the objectives the PS should propose for the upcoming administration.

Progressive Social Democratic Party Loses Status

PY3006192189 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] The National Electoral Service has struck off the list of officially recognized political parties Eugenio Velasco Letelier's Progressive Social Democratic Party. The National Electoral Service published its resolution in today's issue of the Official Gazette, which makes it effective immediately. The resolution states that the Progressive Social Democratic Party did not submit the list of signatures of its members before the appropriate legal deadline.

Radical Socialist Party President Resigns

PY3006191389 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] Anibal Palma has resigned as president of the Radical Socialist Party. He will be replaced by Hugo Miranda. Palma said that the general convention of his party will be held this weekend. He explained that he was resigning as party president to run for senator for the First Region. He said that within the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD] the Radical Socialist party is insisting on the need for a government program and an electoral agreement. Once an agreement is reached on these two issues, the CPPD will announce its presidential candidate. Palma did not rule out the possibility that the CPPD would give its support to Patricio Aylwin.

Colombia

Rebel Groups Seek Dialogue With Government

PA0207201989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2005 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Text] Bogota, 2 Jul (EFE)—It has been reported in Bogota that at the end of the fourth guerrilla summit somewhere in the Colombian mountains, three Colombian guerrilla organizations today agreed to propose to President Virgilio Barco's Liberal administration that a "direct dialogue" be held.

According to Radio Cadena Nacional (RCN), this was a joint proposal by the communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the Popular Liberation Army (EPL), and the Indian Quintin Lame group.

RCN said that at the end of the fourth guerrilla summit today "in the Sumapaz mountains" in central Colombia, leaders of the three groups agreed on the establishment of a "direct dialogue with the government" of President Barco concerning peace in the country.

The three groups will send in the next few hours a document to former President Misael Pastrana Borrero, a member of the "commission of notables," who in turn will deliver it to the government.

"The commission of notables" is formed by five Colombian figures who in February were called upon by FARC to serve as its go-betweens in its desire for peace.

In addition to Pastrana Borrero, the commission is formed by former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, Cardinal Mario Revollo, and Fabio Echeverri Correa, president of the National Industrialists Association (ANDI).

FARC had also asked Hernando Santos Castillo, director of Bogota's EL TIEMPO, to participate in the commission, but he refused because of his journalistic profession.

According to the RCN report, the three guerrilla groups propose that a plebiscite must be used as a means of consultation to modernize the Colombian democracy. They also urged electoral reform.

The document will be sent to former President Pastrana Borrero, who must convene an urgent meeting of the "commission of notables" and then deliver the document to the government.

The EPL, FARC, and Quintin Lame had declared unilateral cease-fires in February, but the government said it would not hold a dialogue with them until they showed they were really willing to attain peace.

If the dialogue with the government is held, this would mean four of the six guerrilla organizations that operate in Colombia will have joined the peace process promoted by President Barco, who has been holding talks with the 19 April Movement (M-19) since January.

The other groups, the Castroite Army of National Liberation (ELN) and the Trotskyist Free Fatherland, have instead intensified their military actions in recent months, especially the ELN.

More Rebel Groups Join Talks

PA0307030789 Paris AFP in Spanish 0207 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] Bogota, 2 Jul (AFP)—Four Colombian leftist guerrilla groups announced today that they are willing to promote a direct peace dialogue with the government of President Virgilio Barco, bringing to five the number of rebel groups that have reportedly accepted the peace proposal made by the Colombian president in September 1988.

The leftist M-19 [19 April Movement], which appeared in the mid-1970's, kidnapped 20 ambassadors in an attack on the Dominican Embassy in Bogota, and occupied the Palace of Justice in November 1985—an action that resulted in the deaths of 100 people—has been holding peace talks with the Barco government since December.

Bogota's RCN [Radio Cadena Nacional] reported that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC, communist), the Marxist-Leninist Popular Liberation Army (EPL), the Indian Quintin Lame Commando Unit, and the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT) attended a guerrilla summit held in the Paramo de Sumapaz mountains, in southwest Bogota, this weekend.

During the guerrilla summit, the fourth since the creation of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSM), a document was drafted proposing direct dialogue with the government.

According to the document aired by RCN, dialogue, similar to the one being held with M-19, "would serve to establish the necessary conditions for peace and national harmony."

Contrary to what could have been thought, the proposal was not sent to President Barco, but to Misael Pastrana Borrero, former opposition Social Conservative Party president who ruled from 1970-1974. Pastrana is a member of a commission of notables created to mediate for peace. This commission should analyze the proposal and present it to the government in a few days.

Apparently, also participating in the Simon Bolivar summit were delegates of M-19 and the ELN, a group that has unleashed a violent campaign to destroy the oil industry infrastructure, particularly the leading Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline that crosses the country East to West and covers nearly 800 kms.

The document stresses the need to reach a peaceful political solution to the armed conflict, which the country has had to put up with for the past 40 years.

The signatories of the document asserted that "direct dialogue with the government is one of the mechanisms that could lead to a solution." The government must carry out its struggle against the so-called paramilitary (self-defense) groups with even more determination, the document said.

Likewise, they demand an end to the "dirty war."

Meanwhile, it was learned that former President Misael Patrana Borrero has summoned the Notables Commission, comprised of Fabio Echeverri Correa, president of the National Association of Industrialists (ANDI) and Cardinal Mario Revollo Correa, to a meeting on Monday to review the document and present it to President Barco.

The proposal presented by the FARC, the EPL, the Quintin Lame, and the PRT—organizations that have been abiding by the unilateral truce since early this year—leaves the ELN as the only active Colombian guerrilla group.

However, that subversive group, led by Spanish priest Manuel Perez, announced last week the possibility of opening channels for peace if a date is set for a meeting, in the near future, to analyze the country's current oil policies.

The ELN has offered to stop its attacks if the oil industry in the country is nationalized.

5 Marines Killed in EPL Ambush 29 June

PA3006183489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Report by Ana Eloisa Zuniga]

[Excerpts] One officer and four marines were killed and five were wounded in an ambush by members of the Popular Liberation Army [EPL] yesterday afternoon. The ambush was carried out against a convoy of the Marine Training Battalion in Nuevo Esperanza village, in Maria La Baja jurisdiction [Bolivar Department].

The action occurred at 1700 when 3 trucks carrying 30 marines were taking supplies to the base in Covenas. Explosives were set off as the convoy passed. Wires used to detonate the explosives, batteries, radios, and food were found at the site, leading authorities to surmise that the subversives had been waiting for the convoy for a long time. [passage omitted]

The bodies of the marines have been taken to the Maria La Baja hospital. A major operation is now under way in the area to find the insurgents.

Paraguay

PLRA Deputy Forecasts Coup on 7, 8 July

PY0207213989 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
2 Jul 89 p 10

[Text] Celso Velazquez, a deputy for the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA), stated on 1 July that a coup d'etat to be carried out by the militant sector [of the Colorado Party] that supports the overthrown General Stroessner is in the offing for 7 and 8 July while General Andres Rodriguez is absent.

On those two days Rodriguez will be participating in the inaugural ceremonies of Argentine President-elect Carlos Menem.

Deputy Velazquez told a local radio station that "it is true, for some days now we have been hearing rumors about a coup against President Rodriguez' government."

He added that on those days civilians of the militant faction, together with certain sectors of the Armed Forces, will carry out the coup.

It must be emphasized that on the night of 29 June, with rumors flying around about the possible return of the former dictator (General Alfredo Stroessner], local media reported that the Government House guard had been reinforced with members of the Armed Forces dressed in combat fatigues.

These rumors were denied by official representatives, who stated that no incidents had occurred during Thursday night in the neighborhood of Government House.

Velazquez added that "I believe that Stroessner will never forget his overthrow and that every day he will try to do something to overthrow the new government."

PLRA Deputy Doubts Rumors

PY0207214489 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
2 Jul 89 p 10

[Text] When asked about the statement yesterday by his fellow partisan, Gustavo Riart, deputy for the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, said: 'The struggle for democracy is going to be more difficult, and there will be sectors that will become harder. I know nothing about a possible coup but I do know about the attempt by some sectors to force the government to go back to old ways."

Riart added: "Sectors will appear within the government itself that will try to hinder the country's democratic process but it is difficult to identify them with any political tendency in particular because they act in the defense of economic interests."

In this regard Riart mentioned as urgent subjects the problem of landless peasants and the economic policy that the government must adopt.

The deputy went on to say: "The people should be aware that a lot of progress has been made in the field of citizens' rights, that congress has established a series of democratic mechanisms, that the political parties are willing to carry out the democratic process, and that the Chamber of Deputies recently issued a declaration voicing its desire to solve the problem of landless peasants."

However, he pointed out: "The next phase will probably entail convincing some economic sectors and sectors of power to make concessions in order to solve the national problems and to convince them to yield some of their benefits and power in order to build democracy. Military men and representatives of the economic sector are probably among these people. I think that this is what the citizenry should understand."

Alleged Movements Creates Incident

PY3006141889 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
30 Jun 89 p 3

[Text] Anonymous phone calls to two local radio stations at 2130 yesterday reported that alleged military movements would be carried out at 2330 at the Government Palace. The reports prompted a mobilization of journalists at the site. That, in turn, prompted a high-ranking military officer to reinforce the guards at the Government Palace and to restrict traffic in the area.

It was rumored that former President Alfredo Strossner had clandestinely returned to the country. The rumors, however, were denied by military officers, and it all boiled down to a false alarm. What really happened was an unusual mobilization of journalists around the Government Palace and not a mobilzation of troops or a confinement to barracks.

According to the anonymous phone calls to the radio stations, heavily aremd soldiers posted in the vicinity of the Government Palace had told passers-by to leave the area because "something was going to happen" at 2330.

The radio stations and newspapers sent journalists to the Government Palace to see what was happening. The mobilization of journalists apparently prompted the reinforcement of the presidential guard and the restriction of traffic in the area.

President Andres Rodriguez' aids de camp General Regis Romero and Colonel Fernando Ugarte appeared later at the Government Palace and asserted that nothing abnormal was happening.

Gen Romero told the journalists, who entered the Government Palace to see for themselves that nothing was happening, that "I ordered that traffic be detoured from the area until the situation was clarified. It was just a precautionary measure. Apart from that, nothing is happening."

The officer also denied that shots had been heard in some points of Asuncion and said that there had been no power cut at the Government Palace nor had combat-ready troops been posted in the area.

Police Reaffirm Ban an Demonstrations in Asuncion
PY0107182089 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish
1 Jul 89 p 12

[Text] Responding to media reports that persons or groups of persons are organizing public meetings or demonstrations in unauthorized places in our capital, and in keeping with the provisions of Section 1, Article 4, Law 877/81, which governs police operations:

The chief of the Asuncion Police hereby states that the Interior Ministry ban on meetings or demonstrations in a designated area of the city is still in force. Demonstrations can be freely held outside this area.
[Signed] Division General Francisco Sanchez Gonzalez, chief of police.
Osvaldo Palacios M., chief of the Public Relations Department.

Organizer Suspends Scheduled 'March for Land'
PY0107182289 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
1 Jul 89 p 8

[Text] According to a communique released last night, the march for land scheduled for this morning was suspended by the organizer, the National Coordinating Board of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] Youth.

Ramon Ferreira, leader of the PLRA youth committee, stated: "Given the obvious intention expressed a few hours earlier of unleashing brutal repression, we have suspended the march, which should have made clear which sectors of the government are democratic and which are fascist."

The march has been suspended, "but it has been resolved to resort to all judicial channels in order to protect political freedom, freedom of expression, and freedom of assembly, and to resort to all congressional channels to obtain an authentic agrarian reform that will meet the needs of the overwhelming majority of the people separated from this process," Ferreira added.

The march was to have begun at 1000 this morning in front of the Pantheon of Heroes and was to have ended at the National Congress Building, in a zone "forbidden" by the police.

According to the Asuncion police chief, the forces of order have reminded the people about the prohibition on demonstrations in the downtown area, and have declared that they have prepared a "surprise" for the demonstrators this morning.

The march was to be held in solidarity with the peasants from Cleto Romero and Juan de Mena who demand land for themselves. Several unions and political organizations had announced that the would join the march.

Before the march, a rally was to have been held at the Plaza de los Heroes, where several speeches were to be delivered in support of the march and its organization.